

THE ASSESSMENT OF THE LEARNING COMMUNITY

AQIP Action Project No. 08-2 involves institutionalizing the Learning Community Pilot program undertaken from Fall 2003 to Fall 2007. The project involves creating Learning Communities for all new incoming freshmen during their first and second semesters at CCSJ.

In the initial semester of the pilot program (Fall 2003) there was one learning community of 20 students. By 2007 there were two learning communities with a combined enrollment of 36 students. In the Fall of 2008, the plan is to increase the number of learning communities to four with a total of 80 students *while maintaining the same success rate.*

The work group has set three measurable objectives:

1. *To achieve an institution-wide retention rate of 90% **into the second semester.***
2. *To achieve an institution-wide retention rate of 70% **into the second year.***
3. *To achieve an institution-wide graduation rate of 45% **within five years.***

These targets were derived from a data analysis of the LC pilot programs from 2003-2007. Table 1 and 2 compares retention results of Learning Community students and Non-Learning Community students. Tables 3 and 4 compares graduation results of Learning Community students and Non-Learning Community students.

Table 1. Retention Numbers for Learning Community pilot students and non-Learning Community students

cohort	Number Retained Into 2nd Semester			Number Retained Into 2nd Year		
	Overall	LC Only	Non-LC Only	Overall	LC Only	Non-LC Only
Fall 2003 (N=107, NLC=20)	87	19	68	59	14	45
Fall 2004 (N=111, NLC=20)	98	18	80	65	16	49
Fall 2005 (N=66)	48	--	48	33	--	33
Fall 2006 (N=79, NLC=20)	65	18	47	43	11	32
Fall 2007 (N=104, NLC=36)	87	31	56	--	--	--
Max	98	31	80	65	16	49
Average	77	21.5	59.8	50	13.7	39.8
Min	48	18	47	33	11	32
St Dev	20.2	6.4	14.1	14.7	2.5	8.5

Table 2. Retention Rates for Learning Community pilot students and non-Learning Community students

cohort	Retention Rate Into 2nd Semester (in %)			Retention Rate Into 2nd Year (in %)		
	Overall	LC Only	Non-LC Only	Overall	LC Only	Non-LC Only
Fall 2003	81	95	78	55	70	52
Fall 2004	88	90	88	59	80	54
Fall 2005	73	--	73	50	--	50
Fall 2006	82	90	80	54	55	54
Fall 2007	84	86	82	--	--	--
Max	88	95	88	59	80	54
Average	81.6	90.3	80.2	54.5	68.3	52.5
Min	73	86	73	50	55	50
St Dev	5.5	3.7	5.5	3.7	12.6	1.9

Table 3 Graduation Numbers for Learning Community pilot students and non-Learning Community students

cohort	Number of Bachelor's Graduates in 4 Yrs			Number of Bachelor's Graduates in 5 Yrs		
	Overall	LC Only	Non-LC Only	Overall	LC Only	Non-LC Only
Fall 2003 (N=107, NLC=20)	10	4	6	18	5	13
Fall 2004 (N=111, NLC=20)	6	1	5	1	0	1
Fall 2005	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fall 2006 (N=79, NLC=20)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fall 2007 (*) (N=104, NLC=35)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Max	10	4	6	18	5	13
Average	8	2.5	5.5	9.5	2.5	7
Min	6	1	5	1	0	1
St Dev	2.8	2.1	0.7	12.0	3.5	8.5

Table 4. Graduation Rates for Learning Community pilot students and non-Learning Community students

cohort	4 Yr Graduation Rate (in %)			5 Yr Graduation Rate (in %)		
	Overall	LC Only	Non-LC Only	Overall	LC Only	Non-LC Only
Fall 2003	9.3	20.0	6.9	16.8	25.0	14.9
Fall 2004	5.4	5.0	5.5	0.9	0.0	1.1
Fall 2005	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fall 2006	--	--	--			
Fall 2007 (*)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Max	9	20	7	17	25	15
Average	7	13	6	9	13	8
Min	5	5	5	1	0	1
St Dev	3	11	1	11	18	10