

Examples of Living Learning Communities

Key Elements of LLCs (Inkelas, Jessup-Anger, Benjamin, & Wawrzynski, 2018):

Clear goals and objectives for the LLC based on topic or theme

Strong collaboration between academic affairs and residential life/student affairs

Adequate academic resources: courses for credit and faculty advising

Supportive Co-curricular environment: study groups and common learning/living spaces

Integration throughout the entire program - linking the academic, social and living

Loyola University Maryland

Medium sized, private, Jesuit, liberal arts college

Retention Rate: 86% (2019-20 College Scorecard, US Dept of Education)

- Offers first year students an interdisciplinary living & learning experience called “Messina.” Students live and learn with small cluster of peers, to build meaningful connections, stay intellectually engaged in and out of classroom, help with transition to college life
- Each Messina group is led by an “Evergreen” (older student guide), a mentor (staff person), and two faculty members
- Each Messina group works together to help plan enrichment sessions and class trips throughout the year to help first-year students transition socially and academically to college
- Distinctive features: holistic approach to the student experience - academic, social, and spiritual. Messina affords connection among students, between students and faculty, and across disciplines

Resource: (*What exactly is Messina*, n.d.)



Binghamton University: SUNY

Public, medium-sized, 4 year college

Retention rate: 92%. (2019-20 College Scorecard, US Dept of Education)

- Offers 8 optional Living Learning Communities. Themes include Engineering, Environmental Action, Nursing, International Relations, Public Service, Politics Law & Society, Entrepreneurship
- Each community has its own theme with classes reserved specifically for that topic. Students are housed together and get the chance to participate in exclusive group service projects & field trips
- In 2019, Residential Life instituted a new program - BConnected - which focuses on 4 themes: Community, Academic Success, Life Skills, and Well-being. It provides an intentional residential experience that helps students engage within their communities and develop life skills in an environment that supports student success and well-being.
- During pandemic the LLCs created virtual programming and students found ways to help their home communities.

Source: (*Binghamton University Learning Communities*, 2021)

