

Introducing Living-Learning Communities at USD

Open your mind to life and learning at USD as soon as you arrive on campus. A Living-Learning Community (LLC) is a group of students who take similar classes together, live near one another and experience college in a way that is much more than just living in a residence hall or going to class. Each community is built around a theme like social justice, science and transformation, sustainability or faith. By living near your classmates, you will be able to share ideas, discuss different perspectives outside of class and enjoy the company of friends with similar passions. The LLC is a partnership between Student Affairs and the College of Arts and Sciences.

The Benefits of Choosing an LLC

- Make connections from the day you arrive on campus with your peers, faculty, resident assistant (RA), preceptorial assistant (PA) and others
- Participate in curricular and co-curricular activities related to your theme
- Share your interests, knowledge and experiences, with others, and enrich your experience at USD

All this — learning in a small group, getting to know your professors, making connections with classmates and sharing ideas and experiences — helps build your engagement in our community.

Living-Learning Community Themes 2011-12

Aligning with our community's values, the three living-learning community themes for 2011-12 will be sustainability, social justice and Honors.

- **THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY:** Do you think USD can become a carbon neutral campus? Can environmental awareness be expressed in art or poetry? What is ecological stewardship? How can the sciences, social sciences and humanities collaborate to create an environmentally sustainable world? Explore these questions with your peers in the context of positive environmental change and practice “green living.” Whether you are interested in sustainable fisheries, cultures of environmentalism or graphic depictions of environmental living, this LLC invites all interested in sustaining our environment.



- **THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY:** What is activism? Is it human nature to value social justice? Are we genetically inclined to think about justice? How can you link your academic experience to justice issues? Analyze these questions with your peers in both contemporary and historical issues of peace and justice in local, national and global contexts. Together, you will live, learn and investigate social activism, social change and the philosophical foundations of justice. Through service, immersion and relationship-building opportunities, you will be encouraged to make more just and sustainable lifestyle choices that promote the common good.
- **THE HONORS COMMUNITY:** Explore multi-dimensional thinking with team-taught classes you take together and discuss your academic explorations as you meet other students who will be writing their Honors senior thesis at the same time that you do. The Honors LLC will ensure that your Honors experience is both socially and academically enriching as you begin to create networks with other Honors students regardless of field of study. The Honors LLC is for students who are specially admitted to the Honors Program.

How to Participate in a Living-Learning Community

In Fall 2011, the living-learning communities will be located in the Missions B housing area, which features mostly double rooms, some single rooms, shared bathrooms, a community kitchen and study and lounge spaces on each floor. The Missions B housing area is located in the Valley, home to the Missions Café and Fitness Center, the community garden and many other first-year students. You'll also have the opportunity to select your own roommate. To live together, students must select the same theme when indicating their preferences for preceptorial classes and housing. For more information about living-learning communities, go to www.sandiego.edu/residentlife/community/llc.php.

How the Living-Learning Communities Made a Difference in 2010-11

THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY

The preceptorial classes in the sustainability community joined forces to explore the local marine environment. The community met at USD on Oct. 2, 2010, and traveled to Mission Bay, where 30 students had the opportunity to snorkel, kayak and relax on the beach for the day. While snorkeling, students got to see — and, in some cases, touch (despite protests from those not partial to slimy creatures) — an assortment of sponges, snails, slugs, clams and mussels, an octopus, lobsters, worms and fishes. Those kayaking also viewed sea lions frolicking in the bay. Students were excited about the trip because it combined learning and recreation, while allowing them to bond with other students and their professors. Additionally, the success of this event was enhanced by the enthusiastic participation of PAs and RAs.

THE UNITY COMMUNITY

The preceptorial classes taking part in the unity community have been exploring the concepts of political and community participation. Several of them joined the “350.org” environmental action day on 10/10/10 and worked in teams to enhance the community surrounding USD. Some students worked to create trails in nearby Tecolote Canyon, while others weeded a local Linda Vista community garden. In addition to building community through direct action, students in the unity community competed in a voter registration drive for the November 2010 election. In the end, the American Politics preceptorial tied with the Sociology preceptorial in registering the most voters. The two teams went to the San Diego Zoo to celebrate their work.



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LIVING-LEARNING COMMUNITIES



Enriching the Classroom and Residential Experience

