

Living Learning Community Proposal

Spartans in Sport & Society

Planning Team: Office of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Athletics.

Supporting Faculty: Sociology (Stephen O'Boyle), Political Science (Jeff Colbert), Communication Studies (TBD).

Introduction: This Learning Community, sponsored by the Department of Athletics will include 100 student-athletes, each enrolled in at least one liberal arts course offered by the Sociology, Communication Studies, and Political Science Departments. Three courses will be included in the initial phase: SOC 101, CST 105, PSC 105. Although the number of participants in each course will vary somewhat, we intend to balance the numbers as much as possible, and anticipate 25 student-athletes per course. Four facilitators (from the respective academic and athletic Departments) will be included as participants in the learning community. In exchange for a stipend, they will be expected to assist in organizing study groups and cultural events, and to function as a resource for the community. These facilitators will constitute an essential element of the learning community, providing direct personal contact with four very different courses, assuring representation of course material within the community and offering academic resources that will complement, enrich, and reinforce the course instruction that participants receive in the classroom. This learning community will serve as an academic strategy implemented to create an environment in which more intellectual interaction will occur among students, faculty and staff by linking a core curriculum to integrated student learning. An integrated college experience promotes intellectual communication between faculty and students, improves student GPAs, enhances civic engagement, increases retention, eases both the academic and social transition to college and decreases negative student behaviors.

Target Population: The primary target population for this community is first time UNCG students who define themselves as student-athletes and who seek to examine a curriculum in the disciplines of sociology, political science, and communication as they relate to the business of sport, leadership development, and communication strategies. It seeks to assist those students looking to develop a practical understanding of sport organizational administrative functioning, and participate in collaboratively planned integrated learning activities. The objective is to help students transition into college life and specifically those who are an intercollegiate Division I student-athlete, as well as to prepare them for life after college. It may include some of the academic discipline majors and intercollegiate athletic student-athletes but it is open to students of any major and those who self-identify as student-athletes at various levels. The admission requirements will be on a first come first serve basis and as set by faculty responsible for each course. This will vary according to the size of the discipline, the range of the courses offered, and the number of applicants.

Academic Linkages: All students will be enrolled in at least one course offered by the LC. Various assignments will be carried out in conjunction with the courses. For example, a student taking the Communications Studies course might be asked to create an oral presentation on a career in the business of sports. Students taking PSC 105 might be asked to debate an issue in

the politics of the 2014 Olympics. Students taking SOC 101 could be asked to do a group project associated with developing teamwork/leadership skills through sports.

As first time UNCG students, these individuals have to not only figure out college life with classes and independence but also have an additional role representing the university in the community. This learning community will focus on providing the students with skills and knowledge needed to smoothly transition. The community is intended as a means to equip incoming student to be strong leaders, strong students, strong athletes, and overall strong Spartans. It will not only serve as a transition bridge into college life as well as an environment to help them explore their interests and potential careers. The community will offer four courses from different disciplines (Sociology, Communication Studies, and Political Science), exploring these subject areas through sport and society. Students that are interested in exploring a career in the sport industry will find this learning community beneficial.

Overall Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will become familiar with the political, sociological, and historical perspective and strategies for effective communication of sport and be able to identify issues faced by those in the sport industry.
 - a. Group discussions, presentations, journals, essays, debates.
 - b. Reflection papers on issues facing the sport industry.
2. Students will explore career opportunities in the sport industry. There will be a focus on a variety of areas within the context of the sport industry.
 - a. Presentation on a career in sports from professionals within the industry.
 - b. Community discussions on the different areas which include sport marketing, media, corporate sponsorships, fundraising, law, coaching, sport medicine, psychology, administration, etc.
3. Students will develop an understanding of the importance of leadership development in the context of the business of sports and the respective academic disciplines.
 - a. This will be measured through a series of speakers who will discuss their role in the industry and how they arrived at their career. Portfolio will include a resume, cover letter sample, leadership paper, etc.
4. Through the integrated studies lab, the community will look at the various academic disciplines in the content of sport to develop a broad knowledge or issues involved in sports and solutions to problems that arise. Students will learn to integrate the knowledge from the content courses and discuss sport with their peers. The integrated studies lab will also look to provide an academic context to the student-athlete transition process that is a focus of the community as a whole.
5. Major Learning Goals for Liberal Studies Course + ISL Combination:
 - a. Identify issues in sport.
 - b. Be able to hold educated discussions on the issues.
 - c. Formulate responses to issues that arise in sport.
 - d. Integrate the academic content to life as a student-athlete and/or college student.
6. Assignments for Integrated Courses:
 - a. Group presentation on academic content within sport context.

- b. Sport Business Journal Reflection papers –incorporate sociological content.

Components to be Integrated Into Community

1. Field trips.
 - a. Visit to the Greensboro Coliseum. Students will gain a broader understanding of the operation of sports within a community.
 - b. UNCG recreation center and intercollegiate athletic facilities tours to broaden their knowledge of athletics on a college campus.
2. Read Sport Business Journal.
 - a. Short reflection papers on the reading each week to discuss and share with community.
3. Speaker Series.
 - a. Career panel—professionals from areas within the sport industry.
 - b. Leadership seminar.
 - c. Financial seminar.
 - d. Study/Learning Skills seminar.

Housing Preference: As a hybrid LC, Spartans in Sport & Society would prefer to be housed in the Quad, with availability in other UNCG residence halls.

Budget:

Faculty Leader Add-Pay (3 sections at \$3,500)	\$10,500
ISL Instructors Pay (4 sections at \$3,500)	\$14,000
Excursions	12 @ \$500 \$6,000
Film/Speaker Series	\$1,000
Supplies for Facilitators	\$250
Dinners, other events	\$2,500
Retreat/Team Building Event	\$1,000
Total:	\$35,250
Athletics Contribution:	\$7,250

Athletics will contribute \$3500 towards the ISL instruction as ICA staff will be providing the instructors for one section. In addition, ICA will contribute \$3500 towards the cost of the LC. This will include access to facilities, supplies, transportation, meals, etc. for a section of the ISL it will be instructing. ICA will assist in gaining access to facilities, retreats, etc. for remaining ISL and LC courses as requested.