

Multicultural Studies and Leadership Learning Community

What is a learning community? Learning communities provide a supportive and engaging environment where students can learn and live with other students who have a similar academic interest.

Who should choose the Multicultural Studies and Leadership Learning Community? Did you know that there are several large Latino communities in Iowa? Did you know that a famous stop on the Underground Railroad is a short drive from Iowa City? Did you know that some Iowa farmers are learning soil restoration techniques from their new Hmong neighbors? Do you want to learn more about American Indians living in Iowa?

The MCS community is for students of any major who are

- interested in learning about different US cultures
- interested in learning about what it takes to be an effective leader of diverse groups
- interested in helping others by designing a community service project

How does the MCS community work? Students pursue their individual studies, but come together for a course to learn about being an effective leader in a multicultural setting. Other programming includes cultural events and meetings with leaders to hear about their experiences. Students in the MCS community will also have access to study support to help them succeed in all of their classes.

Where is the MCS community? The MCS community is housed in Hillcrest Hall on the West Campus, close to the gym and sports, and a short walk or Cambus ride to the Pentacrest.

FAQs

Q: Do I spend all of my time with the people in my learning community? I want to meet other people!

A: The MCS brings together students of different majors who are interested in learning about different US cultures and in developing leadership skills. You will take one class together; all other programming is encouraged, but is optional. You will have plenty of opportunities to meet people in your major, and in clubs and student organizations.

Q: What is mandatory about the program?

A: In addition to the class, we will invite you to the campus early to attend an orientation session that will introduce you to the other students in the community, and provide a chance for new students to get to know the campus.

Q: How much time do I have to spend with the other MCS students?

A: We hope some of the students in the MCS will be your friends, and that you will *want* to spend time with them. The coursework and other programming will typically amount to 2-4 hours per week.

Q: What other programming is available?

A: A lot of the programming will depend on student input. It can include trips to cultural events, cooking classes, road trips – anything that exposes students to different cultures.

Q: How do I sign up?

A: You must request the MCS in your housing application. Space is limited, so sign up now! If you have any questions, please contact leadership-learning@uiowa.edu for more information.