

First Year Learning-Communities

Developing “civic professionals” is central to the mission of our service based First Year Learning Communities program at Philadelphia University. Each program emphasizes active and engaged learning while participating in a collaborative academic and service component and bringing students together as a community. By enrolling in our Learning Communities program, your major course is paired with SERVE-101, a hybrid course with an innovative approach to promoting civic engagement.

Consider participating in a Learning Community if you appreciate the academic advantages of belonging to an exceptionally close, caring community of peers and dedicated faculty who share a commitment to community service.

Participation and selection in one of the four Learning Communities is based on the quality of a brief application completed online available at www.PhilaU.edu/FYE and due June 10, 2011.



Did you know that students enrolled in Learning Communities:

- Achieved higher first semester GPAs than those who did not enroll in a learning community at all levels of academic preparation.
- Were more successful in getting to know faculty.
- Were more successful in adjusting to academic demands of a University.
- Were more likely to study with other students outside of class.

“It was nice to have classes with the same group of people. My first college semester was easier and I got to know people really well by having design and community service events together. I enjoyed connecting with my class in the studio and outside of class.”

Applications are due Friday, June 10, 2011 and are available at www.PhilaU.edu/FYE

Program Descriptions

Architecture and the Built Environment

Open to students with an architecture related major (Architecture, Architectural Studies, Architectural Preservation, Interior Design, Construction Management, Landscape Architecture). Students will be co-enrolled in Design I: Interdisciplinary Foundation Studies and may be working with Habitat for Humanity, Women’s Community Revitalization Project, or Rebuilding Philadelphia.

Serving with Style

Open to students majoring in Fashion Merchandising. Students will be co-enrolled in Introduction to Fashion Merchandising and may help operate the Philly AIDS Thrift Store, or guide women to rejoin the workforce with such organizations as Career Wardrobe.

Social Entrepreneurship

Students in the new College of Design, Engineering and Commerce, which includes the School of Business Administration and the School of Design and Engineering. Students will be co-enrolled in Integrative Design Process and will be working on a self-designed service initiative addressing a community need.

The Spectrum Project

Open to all students in any major interested in issues related to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered (GLBT) community and allies. Students will be co-enrolled in a Writing I course and work together with organizations such as The Attic and William Way Center.