

Learning Communities at LaGuardia: A Guide 2004-2005

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Learning Communities have a long and rich history at LaGuardia. Our current programs are described below. Faculty interested in participating in learning community development should review these descriptions and get in touch with the appropriate faculty coordinator. You may read more detailed descriptions of current clusters, academies and pairs on our website: www.lagcc.cuny.edu/lc

ESL Learning Communities have been developed to provide an opportunity for students of English as a second language to study major courses while studying language. They are designed so that the language learning in the ESL course supports the language needed for study in a particular major course. These specially designed courses are highly effective in promoting students' language learning and their success in major courses such as Introduction to Computers, Introduction to Accounting, Introduction to Business, Introduction to Sociology and Exploring the Humanities. **Faculty Coordinator: Carolyn Sterling-Deer**

LaGuardia offers **First Year Academies** in Business and Technology, Allied Health and Liberal Arts. In the Academies students get started on their majors while completing basic skills requirements. Each Academy has at least one basic skills course (if needed), a seminar for first year students, an introductory course in the major, and a studio hour where students begin building their ePortfolios. The First Year Academy in Business and Technology invites students to think about connections between Business and Technology in the 21st century. The First Year Academy in Liberal Arts invites students to think about the way in which the humanities and writing define much of contemporary society. The First Year Academy in Allied Health invites students to think about the way in which health and medicine work in American society. **Faculty coordinators: J. Elizabeth Clark and Nancy Gross**

The Liberal Arts and Sciences Introductory Clusters have been in place at LaGuardia since 1976. All liberal arts and science clusters include English Composition, the Research Paper and two other liberal arts and/or sciences core courses. Each cluster has a theme and readings and assignments are often coordinated across disciplines. Current cluster themes include Fighting for Our Rights: Students, Workers, Citizens and the Promise of American Democracy, Science: Beauty or Beast? Creativity and Composition, Journalism and Ethics, From Movies to the Internet: Media for the Masses, Heroes, Gods and Monsters. Faculty Coordinators: **William J. Koolsbergen and Phyllis van Slyck**