

LEARNING CONNECTIONS

Course Description: This 30 hour online course is designed to provide the participant with teaching strategies that actively engage learners and promote collaboration and community among students and faculty. The unique characteristics of the community college student will be addressed along with explorations of learning and teaching styles. Emphasis will be placed on creating connected learning and a sense of community in the college environment, to include exploration of the learning community concept.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the participant will be able to demonstrate competency in making learning connections through:

- Assessment of theories that apply to the adult learner as a community college student
- Examination of a variety of learning and teaching styles to improve student learning
- Exploration of instructional techniques that promote active learning
- Identification of strategies that create a sense of community in the classroom
- Experience in developing connected learning activities
- Investigation of the learning community model as a method of instructional delivery

Outline of Instruction:

- I. Educating the Adult Learner
 - a. Characteristics of the adult learner
 - b. Characteristics of the community college student
- II. Learning and Teaching Styles
 - a. Examination of different learning styles
 - b. Adapting teaching styles to learning styles
- III. Promoting Active Learning
 - a. Collaborative learning
 - b. Experiential learning
 - c. Problem-based learning
 - d. Reflective learning
- IV. Creating Community Connections
 - a. Building community in the classroom
 - b. Using the online environment to build community
 - c. Making campus connections
- V. Creating Learning Connections
 - a. Integrated activities
 - b. Themed courses
- VI. Exploring Learning Communities
 - a. Definition and rationale
 - b. LC models
 - c. Designing a learning community
 - d. Implementation strategies
- VII. Connections in Review
 - a. Connections that colleges can implement to engage students
 - b. Connections that colleges can implement to promote success