Here’s what students have to say...

“The learning community is an excellent way to meet people with the same interests and similar majors, and a wonderful way to ease into the college experience.”

“It helped me to meet new people, become more involved, and realize what college is all about. I felt like I wasn’t going into my first year alone because the other students were feeling the same way as me.”

“It was helpful to have this group of friends to study with and ask questions when I needed help on anything.”

“The learning community has helped me get to know the faculty on a first name basis. It makes school comfortable.”

“Being in classes together helped me be accountable to go to class and get my work done, plus I could ask others if I needed help with homework or anything.”

HDFS Learning Community Peer Mentors 2011

Hannah    Tayler

Human Development and Family Studies Learning Community

For more information contact:
Pwals@iastate.edu
What is a learning community?

A learning community is a small group of students who typically take several common courses together and have opportunities to participate in out-of-class social and academic related activities. It’s a way to make connections with other students who have similar academic interests, learn together, and enhance your experience at Iowa State. There is no additional cost in being in a learning community.

If you are enrolling in one of the curricula offered by the Department of Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS), you will be included as a member in the HDFS learning community.

What is a peer mentor?

Many learning communities have peer mentors who work with students who are members of the learning community. Peer mentors often coordinate the out-of-class activities, ranging from study groups to social events. They also provide a voice of experience and are available to consult with students on an individual basis too.

The HDFS Peer Mentors will meet weekly with you for the learning community orientation course during the fall semester.

What courses are included in the HDFS Learning Community?

**Fall 2011 courses**

**HD FS 102 (3 credits)**
Individual & Family Life Development

**HD FS 110 (2 credits)**
Learning Community Orientation

**Lib 160 (0.5 credit)**
Library Instruction

**Relig 205 (3 credits)**
Introduction to World Religions

**C I 204 (3 credits) - ECE Majors only**
Social Foundations of American Education

What are the benefits of being in the HDFS Learning Community?

- Make a big campus seem smaller to help you make a fast, smooth, and easy transition to ISU
- Make friends and get to know other students in your major right away
- Develop a supportive network with other students, the peer mentors, and with faculty
- Learn about possibilities in your major
- Reserved space in HDFS learning community cluster of courses
- Participate in social events and out-of-class activities with students and faculty

Learning Community Components:

- Social Events
- Study Sessions
- Common Reading Program
- Service/Volunteer Opportunities