

HALIFAX COMMUNITY COLLEGE
QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN (QEP)



The over-arching goal of the **HCC CIRCLE Program** is to:

**“Develop Self-Regulated Learners and Problem Solvers
through Learning Communities”**

HCC’s QEP will utilize two sets of **Learning Communities** to develop self-regulated learners and problem solvers. As a result, the following personal skills for success will be enhanced:

1. Goal Management
2. Time Management
3. Stress Management
4. Problem Solving
5. Academic Self-Efficacy

Target Group: First-Year Developmental Education Students

Goal: To develop self-regulated learners and problem-solvers. The Learning Communities are the VEHICLES to move our students to this outcome.

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What Is a Learning Community?

A learning community (LC) is a group of two or more classes linked by a common theme. The same student group enrolls in each linked course. LC instructors collaborate closely to *integrate* common assignments. LC students experience how different courses relate to each other, as well as how the material relates to the real-world. Learning Communities foster a creative environment that values diversity in thinking, beliefs, and culture. And they provide an opportunity for *deep* and *integrated learning*.

What Is Academic Self-Efficacy?

Academic Self-Efficacy is the *belief in one's ability* to learn and to perform learning behaviors. High Academic Self-Efficacy is related to motivation, learning, and academic success. It influences persistence with academic tasks and the extent to which one will take on academically challenging pursuits.

What Is Self-Regulated Learning?

Self-Regulated Learners engage in strategic planning, *self-monitoring*, and evaluation of their own academic performance. They are capable of "thinking about their own thinking," or meta-cognition. They know their strengths and weaknesses and have a repertoire of *learning strategies* to use when faced with academic challenges. They attribute success and failure to their use of learning strategies and *personal effort* rather than internal factors or that which is beyond their personal control.

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LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Semester One

(CIRCLE One LCs):

ACA 085 (Study Skills)/MAT 060 **"Steps to Math Success"**

ACA 085 (Study Skills)/ENG 095 **"Steps to Reading and Writing Success"**

Semester Two

(CIRCLE Two LCs):

HUM 115 (Critical Thinking)/MAT 070 **"Thinking about Algebra"**

HUM 115 (Critical Thinking)/ENG 111 **"English: It's Critical"**

- First-year developmental students will be invited to enroll in one of two **CIRCLE One** learning communities (LC):
 - "Steps to Math Success" or
 - "Steps to Reading and Writing Success."
- The original *CIRCLE One* cohorts will be encouraged to enroll in the subsequent **CIRCLE Two** LCs the following semester.
 - Steps to Math Success students will enroll in the "Thinking about Algebra" LC, which will be offered during the same time slot as the original *CIRCLE One* LC; and
 - the Steps to Reading and Writing Success students will enroll in the "English: It's Critical" LC, also offered during the same time slot as the original *CIRCLE One* LC.
- The number of Learning Community sections will increase until full-implementation is achieved during academic year 2013-2014, when just over half of first year students will be enrolled in **CIRCLE One** and **CIRCLE Two** Learning Communities.

Beginning Fall 2011, two additional *CIRCLE Two* LCs will be offered for students who placed out of developmental courses.

For more information:

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