Students thrive in a coordinated, dynamic, and successful First-Year Program. We provide a First-Year Orientation Program, academic Learning Communities, and a First-Year Mentoring Program. In addition, our liberal education program is designed to foster the values and intellectual skills that are necessary as a foundation for learning and to provide all students with experience in the academic disciplines of the liberal arts.

Westminster’s First-Year Program offers you the opportunity for exploration with a healthy dose of flexibility. Our liberal education program is not a series of hoops through which you must jump; instead, we offer a wide range of challenging courses that will expand your knowledge and allow you to investigate and express your interests and abilities. Our courses are taught by faculty members who are dedicated to you and your learning.
First-Year Student Orientation is an exciting first step toward becoming part of the Westminster campus community. It’s an opportunity for you and your family to experience Westminster in person. This four-day program for all first-year students provides an overview of the extensive range of opportunities available to you at Westminster:

- Residential students move into their residence hall, meet their Resident Advisor and roommates.
- Commuter students meet their fellow students (commuter and residential) and become acquainted with the resources available on campus.
- All students take care of “housekeeping” items before school starts: get a student ID card, set up a Westminster computer network account, purchase textbooks, etc.
- All students meet club and organization representatives.
- All students get to know the local Sugar House neighborhood.
One of the goals of orientation is to help you make new friends and feel comfortable in your new community.

Activities include the following:

- Ice-cream social
- Movie night on the Village Green
- Mentor host receptions
- Improv comedy show
- Volunteer activities

Opportunities are available to complete your course selections and registration, meet with Financial Aid, and get to know our extraordinary facilities.

During the first two days of orientation, parents are invited to join the fun. Orientation focuses on introducing students to their peers, faculty, staff, and the community.

For more information, please call the Office of Student Life at 801.832.2230 or email firstyearorientation@westminstercollege.edu.
Faculty who teach in Learning Communities also serve as mentors for first-year students. Faculty mentors welcome their first-year students to the Westminster campus, assist students in the transition to college life, provide information and advice about liberal education requirements, and mentor students as they begin their studies and throughout their Fall and Spring semesters at Westminster.

Faculty mentors also provide information to students regarding choice of major and career options. If you choose to register for a Spring semester Learning Community, you will be assigned a mentor. First-year students and their mentors will meet during Orientation Week.
Overarching your entire learning experience at Westminster are the college-wide learning goals—a set of skills and attributes that we believe all students ought to achieve. Those goals are as follows:

- Critical, analytical, and integrative thinking
- Creative and reflective capacities
- Leadership, collaboration, and teamwork
- Writing and other communication skills
- Global consciousness, social responsibility, and ethical awareness

You will develop these skills throughout your time at Westminster, both inside and outside the classroom.

To help you track your achievement of the college-wide learning goals, you will begin to build a portfolio of your work during your first year at the college. In your learning community classes, you will learn more about the meaning and significance of the college-wide goals. Then in your second semester, you will learn how to build a portfolio, either by completing online assignments or by enrolling in a section of INTR 175.
Team taught by two professors, Learning Communities pair two traditionally different subject areas with a common theme.

Learning Communities inspire discovery of two disciplines in the context of our contemporary times. Your learning will be active and engaged. You will make connections between courses, see how ideas intersect, and take ownership of your first year in college. These linked courses fulfill a piece of Westminster’s liberal education requirements or requirements for your major.

Learning Communities are designed to help you adjust to college, improve critical thinking skills, and establish strong relationships with other students and with faculty members. You will be able to choose a Learning Community that matches your interests in these integrated courses.

A full selection of Learning Communities offered during the coming academic year is detailed on the following pages. Find something that captures your imagination.
Fall 2013

Tools to Solve the World’s Problems

MATH 141 (College Algebra)  
– Professor Carolyn Connell

MGMT 205 (Leadership Development)  
– Professor Vicki Whiting

Success in today’s global environment requires an ability to think critically and solve problems. This learning community will enhance your critical thinking and problem-solving capabilities through an integration of college algebra (Math 141) with leadership principles (Management 205). This learning community meets liberal education requirements. Equally important, these courses are an excellent foundation to your success in college—and in life. We’ll put your math and leadership skills to good use by providing a helping hand to local nonprofit organizations.

Completion of this community fulfills the Mathematics, Living Arts, and Learning Community Liberal Education requirements.

“My Learning Community] was definitely my favorite class.” —Brooke
Development, Disease, and Degrees

PSYC 203 (Lifespan Development)  
– Professor Barbara Smith

INTR 100 (Transitioning to College)  
– Professors Jennifer Stock

If you are considering a degree in health care and are interested in the study of human development, this learning community may be for you. We will combine a psychology course that explores lifespan development with a one-credit course that will introduce you to life at Westminster and explore health care professions.

Completion of this community fulfills the Lifespan Development requirement for Nursing students and the Learning Community Liberal Education requirements.

Early Start

AVFL 121 (Foundations of Flight)  
– Lance Vaculin

INTR 100 (Transitioning to College)  
– Professor Gail Avendaño

This learning community is designed for flight students accepted into the Early Start program, which begins July 30. These two classes provide students with a foundation of success as they transition to college and begin a unique and innovative flight-training curriculum. Students will also prepare to pass the FAA written exam, required for a private pilot’s certificate.

Completion of this community fulfills the AVFL 121 (Foundations of Flight) for Aviation students and the Learning Community Liberal Education requirement.
Aviation Connections

AVIA 101 (Air Transportation)
– Professor Gerry Fairbairn

INTR 100 (Transitioning to College)
– Professor Gail Avendaño

This learning community is designed for flight operations or aviation management majors who are starting their first semester of college. Students will be given an overview of the aviation industry, and they will receive a solid introduction to the academic expectations of college-level study and the resources available to ensure their success.

Completion of this community fulfills the AVIA 101 (Air Transportation) requirement for Flight Operations and Aviation Management students and the Learning Community Liberal Education requirement.

Write Flyers

ENGL 110 (Composition and Research)
– Professor Gail Avendaño

This class will focus on intensive, major-specific writing instruction for students in the aviation program. Students in this writing class will spend the semester immersed in aviation topics. They will work with peers to improve their college-level writing skills, expand their understanding of aviation program requirements, and become comfortable accessing the many resources available through the college.

Completion of this community fulfills the Composition and Research and Learning Community Liberal Education requirements.

Fall 2013
Big Picture, Little Picture: Locating the Self in Society

SOC 105 (Introduction to Sociology)
– Professor Kristjane Nordmeyer

ART 101 (Beginning Drawing)
– Professor Naomi Marine

Sociology studies the social world in which we live, from large institutions to individual interactions. Although we experience this world from our own unique perspective, there are many larger patterns we can see when we look at the big picture. This learning community will focus on developing awareness about the ways in which individuals form a sense of self within larger social structures. Students will develop their basic drawing abilities and use visual language to reflect, analyze, and communicate about the connections between self and society.

Psychology and Your World

PSYC 105 (Introduction to Psychology)
– Professor Jonathan Amburgey

INTR 100 (Transitioning to College)
– Professor Barbara Smith

Are you the kind of person who wonders why people behave as they do? Are you curious about individual differences and differences in groups? If so, please join us in this learning community where we will examine the science of psychology. You will be introduced to theory, research, and practice. This class will introduce you to different topics in psychology such as neuroscience, social psychology, developmental psychology, and the study of psychological disorders. We will also explore life on the Westminster campus.

Completion of this community fulfills the Social Science II, Creative Arts, and Learning Community Liberal Education requirements.
Healthy Person/Healthy Community

HPW 250 (Fitness for Life) – Professor Laura Iverson
INTR 100 (Transitioning to College) – Professor Julie Tille

Learn what makes for a healthy person through fitness and what makes for a healthy community through service. Join us for some intriguing and fun discussions, serious workouts, and community service. You will better understand how the health of an individual and the health of a community really do affect each other—and how you can make a positive change in both areas.

Completion of this community fulfills the Living Arts and the Learning Community Liberal Education requirements.

Music and Words: The Art of Communication

ENGL 110 (Composition and Research) – Professor Helen Hodgson
MUSC 109 (Music Fundamentals) – Professor Chris Quinn

Can we truly live without music or words? In music class, you will listen to music, both past and present, and discuss it within the context of the basic elements found in all music. The composition class will focus on reading critically and writing clearly and effectively about topics drawn from readings and class discussion. After reading, thinking, and talking about music and the ideas that shape our times, you will have many opportunities to write about topics that will enrich your life.

Completion of this community fulfills the Composition and Research, Arts Survey, and Learning Community Liberal Education requirements.

Fall 2013
Anatomy Matters

BIOL 103 (Human Anatomy)
– Professor Sara Shaw

CHEM 103 (Introduction to Chemistry)
– Professor Allyson Christensen

Explore the basic building blocks of nature and how they come together to form living beings in this community specifically designed for pre-nursing students. We investigate the structure and properties of atoms and molecules that make up all matter on Earth. We examine the structures that make up the human body and learn how they function. In the process, we discover the close relationship that exists between these two seemingly very different subjects and how they relate to common experiences.

Completion of this community fulfills the Life Sciences Part I Nursing, Physical Sciences Nursing, and Learning Community Liberal Education requirements.

Nature and Numbers

BIOL 203 (Introduction to Ecology)
– Professor Christine Clay

MATH 240 (Statistics for the Sciences)
– Professor Sean Raleigh

The changing size of a penguin population. The yearly dynamics of wolves hunting their prey. Nitrogen that cycles through a forest ecosystem after a fire. Ecology and statistics give us the tools to understand and interpret these fascinating events and to discover the amazing patterns and processes of the natural world. Students will gather ecological data in BIOL 203 and learn to analyze it in MATH 240.

This learning community is suggested for biology, environmental studies-science concentration, and pre-professional health majors.

Completion of this community fulfills the Statistics requirement for the Sciences, Natural Sciences requirement for Environmental Studies, and Learning Community Liberal Education requirements.
As a future business leader, you must be able to make solid rational decisions. However, making those decisions can be challenging due to uncertainties. With statistics, you can analyze data and create models. Simulation and forecasting allow you to test and refine your models. And together, these practices will lead you and your company to successful outcomes. In this community, you will learn the basics of statistics and model building that will help you develop confidence and empower you to make the tough choices any business must face.

Completion of this community fulfills the Mathematics and Learning Community Liberal Education requirements. IRM 200 (Principles of Information Resource Management) fulfills a core requirement for Business students.
Ways of Being

INTR 100 (Transitioning to College)  
– Professors Aimee Frost and Tim Carr
EDUC 201 (Discovering Creativity through Multiple Intelligences)  
– Professor Tim Carr

Ways of Being suggests that we are complete and unique human beings with a vast array of likes, dislikes, abilities, skills, and strengths. We believe that a life well lived involves appreciating others at a deep level of understanding, as well as being a contributing member of the community. Through this community experience, it is our intention that you discover great things about yourself, your friends, family members, and your classmates. You will also explore ways that you can best serve and contribute to the community through your own Way of Being.

Completion of this community fulfills the Living Arts and Learning Community Liberal Education requirements.

How to Change the World

INTR 100 (Foundations of Leadership)  
– Professor Trisha Teig
EDUC 205 (Service Learning in Salt Lake)  
– Professor Peter Ingle

People everywhere are discovering that the true meaning of leadership is found through service. This community focuses on developing your sense of leadership while carefully considering the principles of civic engagement. You will take these foundations of leadership and civic engagement from the classroom and apply them to real service outside the classroom. By teaming with your learning community colleagues, you will “make a difference” in a meaningful service project in our local communities.

Students interested in civic engagement, service, community, and campus leadership will enjoy the broad variety of topics, activities, and projects offered in this course.

Completion of this community fulfills the Living Arts and Learning Community Liberal Education requirements.
Speaking about Hip-Hop

INTR 100 (Transitioning to College)
– Professor Karnell Black
SPCH 111-14 (Public Presentations)
– Professor Tamara Stevenson

Each year Hip Hop is responsible for pumping billions of dollars into the American economy. Most think Hip Hop is limited to the expression of Rap, glorified via the majority of media outlets. This learning community is designed to help students examine Hip Hop as a form of communication through a social and cultural lens. Students will learn the origins, guiding principles, and the effects of Speech Communication and Hip Hop. This course will challenge students to think critically about Hip Hop as philosophy and its place and influence on society. Drawing on various readings, students will consider controversial subjects as politics, race, commercialization, gender, and social activism in America as they relate to Hip Hop and Speech Communication.

Completion of this community fulfills the Living Arts and Learning Community Liberal Education requirements.

Intro to Environmental Studies

ENVI 101 (Introduction to Environmental Studies)
– Professor Jeffrey McCarthy
– Professor Brent Olson

Drawing on ideas from the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities, this course is an interdisciplinary exploration of the fundamental principles of Environmental Studies. Students will consider influential approaches to understanding nature and investigate local environmental issues.

Completion of this community fulfills the Learning Community Liberal Education Requirement.

Also available in Spring.
The World That Is and The World That Ought To Be

SOC 105 (Introduction to Sociology)  
– Professor Mark Rubinfeld
PHIL 206 (Introduction to Ethics)  
– Professor Jason Goltz

Exploring the cultural, moral, and social contexts of who we are, what we do, and why we do it, this community will integrate sociology and philosophy to examine the values, beliefs, judgments, actions, relations, expectations, obligations, organizations, and institutions that constitute society.

Completion of this community fulfills the Social Sciences II, Philosophy/Religion, and Learning Community Liberal Education requirements.

The Columbian Exchange to Coca Cola: Modern World History and Introduction to Composition

ENGL 110 (English Composition)  
– Professor Kara Weiss
HIST 213 (Modern World History)  
– Professor Gary Marquardt

“Globalization” is a catch-phrase of this century, but its roots are planted in centuries past. We will trace events from the 16th century to the present, looking at what happened and trying to understand how and why. Students will put course material into action with debates, interactive web-based projects, and papers that will stretch critical thinking and hone writing skills. What do a morning cup of coffee and bowl of cereal have to do with the evolution of globalization? Students will find out and might never look at their morning pick-me-up (or Cheerios) the same way again.

Completion of this community fulfills the Composition and Research, History, and Learning Community Liberal Education Requirements.
Through the Looking Glass: The Presentation of Scientific Information

SPCH 111 (Public Presentations)
– Professor Scott Gust

Expressing Evolution: Organisms, Change, and Pictorial Representation

ART 101 (Beginning Drawing)
– Professor Matt Kruback
BIOL 202 (Organisms and Evolution)
– Professor Christine Stracey

Students in this Learning Community will register for a Life Science or Physical Science Liberal Education course.

In this community, you will be introduced to various theories and techniques of public presentations, with an emphasis on the presentation of scientific material. You may either draw upon scientific principles or information from other classes or present on some scientific issue in the popular media. You will learn the importance of organizing, supporting, and clearly stating ideas and be expected to be able to assess the speaking situation, organize ideas for presentation, and develop competent public speaking skills.

Completion of this community fulfills the Basic Speech and Learning Community Liberal Education requirements.

Also available in Spring.

Evolution is a fundamental part of the natural world, but the concept of seeing change is difficult to grasp. We will explore evolution and the diversity of organisms through the languages of science and drawing. We will visualize, categorize, and document change across the living world. Students will explore the fundamentals of evolutionary biology and the basics of visual art in an attempt to understand the results of natural forces and expand their visual vocabulary.

Completion of this community fulfills the Creative Arts and Learning Community Liberal Education requirements. BIOL 202 (Organisms and Evolution) fulfills a core requirement for Biology students.
Exploring Utah’s Environment

BIOL 110 (Environmental Biology)  
– Professor Christine Clay  
ENGL 110 (Composition and Research)  
– Professor Brent Olson

Investigate global ecological systems and local environmental problems through fieldwork, research, and composition. In this community, you will work with local experts to investigate creeks in the Salt Lake Valley while also learning to evaluate water quality in the lab and in the field. At the same time, you will research and write about Utah environmental issues, learning the analytical and informational skills you need to succeed in college.

Completion of this community fulfills the Life Sciences, Composition and Research, and Learning Community Liberal Education Requirements.

Westminster Scholars

MGMT 205WS (Leadership Development)  
– Professor Steve Hurlbut  
ENGL 110 (Composition and Research)  
– Professor Tim Dolan

First-year students in the Westminster Scholars program will register for this community, which will introduce the principles and practices of problem-based learning and serve as a gateway course in creating a cohesive community.

We will examine issues of personality, group and organizational dynamics, leadership, problem-solving, and composition and research as we explore concepts. We will then apply those concepts to a community-service project and describe them in a research composition. Students will use problems to examine issues of composition, liberal education, Eportfolios, scholarly research, and community service.

Completion of this community fulfills the Living Arts, Composition and Research, and Learning Community Liberal Education requirements.
“Even though the class is over, I still have bonds with the other people from that class.” —Carley

Spring 2014

Through the Looking Glass: The Presentation of Scientific Information

SPCH 111 (Public Presentations)– Professor James Hedges

Students in this Learning Community will register for a Life Science or Physical Science Liberal Education course.

In this community, you will be introduced to various theories and techniques of public presentations, with an emphasis on the presentation of scientific material. You may either draw upon scientific principles or information from other classes or present on some scientific issue in the popular media. You will learn the importance of organizing, supporting, and clearly stating ideas and be expected to be able to assess the speaking situation, organize ideas for presentation, and develop competent public speaking skills.

Completion of this community fulfills the Basic Speech and Learning Community Liberal Education requirements.

Also available in Fall.
Intro to Environmental Studies

ENVI 101 (Introduction to Environmental Studies)
– Professor Brent Olson
– Professor Christine Stracey

Drawing on ideas from the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities, this course is an interdisciplinary exploration of the fundamental principles of Environmental Studies. Students will consider influential approaches to understanding nature and investigate local environmental issues.

Completion of this community fulfills the Learning Community Liberal Education Requirement.

Also available in Fall.

I say tomato; you say 西红柿: Communicating Across Cultures

ENGL 110 (Composition and Research)
– Professor Amy Kelly
ENGL 166 (Communication Across Cultures)
– Professor Jennifer Ritter

“In our globalized world, most of us can belong to many groups at the same time. But to get things done, we still need to cooperate with members of other groups carrying other cultures. Skills in cooperation across cultures are vital for our common survival” (Hofstede). Proficiency in communication and culture are essential in our modern globalized society. This learning community provides a path for cross cultural competence by exploring culture, cultural values, and ways of communicating both orally and written. In addition, it provides a diverse and global setting for developing writing and research skills. Themes might include music, food, travel, and education.

Completion of this community fulfills the Composition and Research and Learning Communities Liberal Education Requirements.

For additional information on the First-Year Program, please contact Barbara Smith at 801.832.2420 or bsmith@westminstercollege.edu.
So let’s get started.

1. Read through this brochure one more time. Be sure to pay special attention to the descriptions of the Learning Communities. Choose 3–4 descriptions that interest you most.

2. Review the Pathfinder information that you received in addition to this booklet.

3. **Before** your first advising appointment, select a list of classes you would like to take during your first semester. Remember, multiple sections of first-year courses are available. However, multiple sections of Learning Communities are not. So make your Learning Communities choices first, and then select your other courses. Every first-year student must register for one Learning Community in either the Fall or Spring semester.

4. You can find the schedule for Learning Communities included in the Pathfinder folder.

5. Make a list of questions for your advising appointment. We can be reached at startcenter@westminstercollege.edu or 801.832.2280. The START Center has the answers!
1 Bamberger Hall (Administration)
2 Behnken Hall
3 Bill and Vieve Gore School of Business
4 Black Bridge
5 Carleson Hall
6 Converse Circle
7 Converse Hall
8 Dick Science Building
9 Dolores Doré Eccles Ceramic Center
10 Dorlores Doré Eccles Plaza
11 Dolores Doré Eccles Health, Wellness, and Athletic Center
12 Dumke Field (Elevated)
13 Emigration Creek
14 Foster Hall
15 Giovale Library
16 Hogle Hall
17 Jewett Center for the Performing Arts and Emma Eccles Jones Conservatory
18 Kim T. Adamson Alumni House
19 Maintenance Building
20 Malmsten Amphitheater
21 Maloif Hall
22 Meldrum Science Center
23 Nightingale Hall
24 Nunemaker Place
25 Olwell Hall
26 Payne Gymnasium
27 Richer Commons
28 Shaw Student Center
29 Stock Hall
30 Walker Hall