

2026-2027 Rubric for Evaluating Learning Community Proposals

Purpose and Overview

This rubric supports consistent and collaborative evaluation of Learning Community proposals at Waubensee Community College. The review process considers clarity of purpose, academic design, student support, feasibility, and alignment with institutional priorities. Committee members should select the rating that best reflects the proposal and assign points within the indicated range.

Instructions for Using the Qualitative Rating Scale

Committee members should select the rating that best reflects the proposal and assign points within the indicated range.

Rating	Description
Very Clear and Well-Developed	Thorough, intentional, and ready for implementation
Mostly Clear	Well developed with minor areas needing refinement
Partially Defined	Some elements present but lacking clarity or depth
Unclear or Underdeveloped	Significant gaps or insufficient detail

Total possible points: 50

(60 points for Repeat Learning Communities—meaning, the repetition of existing learning communities)

Point Break-Down by Section:

Section 2: Rationale and Purpose = 15 points

Section 3: Course Design = 10 points

Section 4: Benefits to Students = 10 points

Section 5: Learning Outcome Goals = 10 points

Section 6: Repeat Learning Communities = 10 points — Only for repeat learning communities

Section 7: Timelines and Resources = 5 points

Section 8: Conclusion = Optional

Learning Community Rubric

Instructions to Reviewer:

Please use the following ratings to evaluate the criteria in each “section.” Sections 2-8 have been taken directly from the proposal form.

Section 2: Rationale and Purpose (15 points)

Please evaluate the applicants’ overview of the proposed learning community, including its purpose and goals.

A few things we asked them to consider:

- What is the purpose of your learning community? What are its priorities and goals?
- How does your learning community align with institutional priorities? This could include one or more of the following: student success, retention and completion, equity and inclusion, career or transfer readiness, interdisciplinary collaboration, or something else!

Rating	Point Range
Very Clear	13-15
Mostly Clear	9-12

Partially Defined	4-8
Unclear	0-3

Points Awarded:

_____ / 15

Reviewer Comments:

Section 3: Course Design (10 points)

Please evaluate the proposed design plans for the learning community.

A few things we asked the applicants to consider:

- How do the two courses intersect?
- How will you integrate content and materials to create a truly interdisciplinary experience?
- How will the instructors collaborate when implementing instructional strategies and designing assessment methods?

Rating	Point Range
Very Clear	9-10
Mostly Clear	6-8
Partially Defined	3-5
Unclear	0-2

Points Awarded:

_____ / 10

Reviewer Comments:

Section 4: Benefits to Students (10 points)

Please evaluate the applicants' discussion of student interest and explanation of how the learning community will benefit students

A few things we asked them to consider:

- Who is your target student audience? (i.e. first year students, general education students, technology and career students? Majors or undecided? All students?)
- How will your learning community benefit students? (i.e. academically, professionally, or personally?)
- Will there be significant student interest for this learning community? Please explain. You could even include the previous year's enrollment data for each course, if you like.
- Are both courses transferable?

Rating	Point Range
Very Clear	9-10
Mostly Clear	6-8
Partially Defined	3-5
Unclear	0-2

Points Awarded:

_____ / 10

Reviewer Comments:

Section 5: Learning Outcomes and Goals (10 points)

Please evaluate the applicants' description of the knowledge and skills students will gain from the learning community.

A few things we asked applicants to consider:

- How will your learning community meet college outcomes?
- What are your course learning outcomes?

- How do you plan to assess learning?
- How do you plan to use assessment information to improve future offerings?

Rating	Point Range
Very Clear	9-10
Mostly Clear	6-8
Partially Defined	3-5
Unclear	0-2

Points Awarded:

_____ / 10

Reviewer Comments:

Section 6: For Repeat Learning Communities Only (10 points–ONLY for Repeating Learning Communities)

Have you taught this learning community in the past? If not, please skip this question. If so, what did you learn? What worked well? What do you plan to change? What improvements do you intend to make?

Rating	Point Range
Very Clear	9-10
Mostly Clear	6-8
Partially Defined	3-5
Unclear	0-2

Points Awarded:

_____ / 10

Reviewer Comments:

Section 7: Timeline and Resources (5 points)

Please describe your plans to prepare for the learning community. What resources will you need? Will you need additional funding or special equipment?

Rating	Point Range
Very Clear	5
Mostly Clear	3-4
Partially Defined	1-2
Unclear	0

Points Awarded:

_____ / 5

Reviewer Comments:

Section 8: Conclusion (Optional)

Applicants had the opportunity to add additional information, including goals, plans, expectations.

Reviewer Comments: