1. **What is a learning community?**
   A learning community is a self-selected group of students who share similar academic, cultural or language interests and explore them together in common courses and out of classroom activities. The majority of learning communities are living-learning communities which allow you the added benefit of being on the same floor with community members.

2. **What are the benefits of joining?**
   Students in learning communities report making friends quickly and connecting with faculty, staff and other students more easily. They help facilitate your transition to campus life by making Rutgers a smaller place and giving you a chance to live and learn with students of similar interests. Learning communities build a supportive, fun and vibrant community of friends!

3. **What are the participation requirements?**
   Each student enrolled in a learning community contributes by participating in programs which are designed by your residential peer mentor, RA or Residence Life Coordinator/Educator. Students will be asked to participate in monthly learning community programs. For more information on types of programs visit the rulc.rutgers.edu or contact rulc@echo.rutgers.edu for additional information.

4. **What if after I am assigned in a learning community, I change my mind?**
   If you are in a non-residential program, you can drop the course that you are enrolled in. If you are in a living-learning program, you must submit a request outlining your reasons to the Director of Learning Communities for not wanting to participate. If you want to move out, you can submit a change request form to be assigned to a different residence hall.
5. **Does being part of a particular learning community mean that I am committing to that field of study as a major or future career?**
   No | Signing up to be in a particular learning community does not mean that you are committing to major in that topic of interest. The learning community is designed to help you explore that particular area of interest.

6. **What if I’m undecided?**
   If you are undecided, joining a learning community is helpful in figuring out what major you would like to pursue. By joining a learning community that appeals to your interests, you will be able to better decide whether or not that is a major/field of study that you would like to pursue.

7. **First-Years Only: If I choose to be in a learning community that does not relate to the major that I want to pursue, will I be behind?**
   No | As a first-year student you have plenty of time to take exploratory classes to figure out what you want to major in. Regardless of what you choose as a major, all classes taken in the learning community will count towards your graduation credit.

8. **First-Years Only: What courses are part of the learning community?**
   Each community has between one to three courses that students share in common. You can check rulc.rutgers.edu for specifics. The courses are not added to your normal course load, they are courses that you would be taking anyway if you were interested in that topic. For the majority of learning communities, they are introductory courses with students outside of the community enrolled as well. This will allow you to see friendly faces in the large introductory classes.

9. **First-Years Only: How is being in a learning community different than if I came into Rutgers as a regular student?**
   Being part of a learning community still classifies you as a regular student and you are still involved in all the offerings of our residential first-year experience by living in a traditional first-year residence hall. You will get an added bonus of having an enhanced experience through a program that will contribute to your success at Rutgers.

10. **Transfers Only: What courses are part of the learning community?**
    Each community has one course that the students share in common. It is a uniquely designed Students in Transition Seminar that is exclusively held for community members. STS courses are a 1 credit requirement by the School of Arts and Sciences. The community gives you the added benefit of co-enrolling with learning community members.

11. **Do I have to live on campus to be part of a learning community?**
    The majority of our learning communities are residential programs that require you to live on a designated floor, suite or house.
12. **Do living-learning community students get to live with other first-year or transfer students?**
   Yes | Most learning communities interact with non-community students who also reside in the residence hall or on the floor.

13. **Is there any extra cost to be in a learning community?**
   No | There are no additional costs for learning community programs with the exception of the Douglass Residential College.

14. **What is the application and selection process?**
   All learning communities require an online application along with a phone interview. You must complete an online application via the learning communities’ website.

15. **When will I find out if I have been accepted?**
   You will be notified via e-mail on Monday July 13, 2015.

   **Note:** For all living-learning communities you must complete your housing application and contract or you will not be placed into the program.

16. **I still have questions, who do I call?**
   You can e-mail Ghada Endick, Director of Learning Communities at rulc@echo.rutgers and we can arrange for you to speak with a learning community staff member, a current community member or the peer mentor.