Cal Poly

EXPERIENTIAL SPACES

UNIVERSITY HOUSING

LEARNING COMMUNITIES
LEARN BY DOING
IN HOUSING

Let us partner with you to coordinate Learn By Doing experiences to help students apply theory to real world challenges and foster an academically focused environment.

In 45 minutes you can:

• Drive home a concept or share info at a Cooking event
• Host a study or review session
• Drop by an Honors Banquet or a student recognition event
• Host a fireside chat based on faculty’s experience or interest
• Teach a hands-on craft (i.e. beading, dancing, painting, etc.) at an Art Under the Arch event
• Play a casual game of basketball, volleyball, pool, chess, cards, etc.
• Hold a language lunch and help students practice a language
• Give a lecture based on research or a class
• Host a current event(s) discussion
• Go on a hike, run, or walk
• Climb the Cal Poly rock wall
• Provide a free lesson (e.g. interviewing for a job, playing an instrument, speaking a language)
• Bring a guest speaker to a meet and greet before a campus engagement
**Learning Spaces In Housing:**

Do many of your students live on campus? Would you like to gather students after class hours to have a discussion, share a meal or watch a film? University Housing has convenient locations to host these types of learning experiences.

- **Connections:**
  - Community Center (off lobby) open multipurpose room with space for 50 with a mix of couches and chairs (Sierra Madre and Yosemite)

- **Living Learning Program & Transitions:**
  - TV lounge with DVD, pool table, piano, space for 25-30

- **Poly Canyon Village:**
  - Knowledge Center, space for 50, various furniture and setup
  - Aliso Community Center: multipurpose room with couches and tables, space for 25

- **Hall Lounges:** Every hall has small lounges fit for small group meetings (20-35 people) and study space (TV/DVD available in some)

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**Extend your time with students:**

- Visit a business to get a behind the scenes look at future careers
- Explore a museum, cultural center, neighborhood, etc.
- Host one of your office hours in housing
- Host a movie and discussion
- Engage in community service
- Go to a play, concert, sporting event, etc.
- Teach a section of your class for a specific resident population (linked class)
- Set up a learning community, i.e. housing community for students in your program/organization to live and work together
In my first quarter at Cal Poly I went to a ‘PASS party’ to meet some of the professors at Cal Poly. I got to know them on a personal level and they helped me plan my schedule for the remainder of the year.”

- Devin Harvey

University Housing Learning Communities

Our staff are focused on providing opportunities for faculty and staff to mentor students in Housing to enhance student success, coordinate experiential learning activities connected to course curriculum, engage in career conversations and provide an atmosphere where faculty, staff and students can explore common interests.

BENEFITS

Residence Halls are students’ homes during their time at Cal Poly, especially during their first year. The transition to college living provides unlimited possibilities to develop academically, as well as socially and emotionally.

Faculty & Staff can enhance those opportunities, as well as:

- time to share your interests, specialties and hobbies with students and help them connect to your field of study
- inform and engage students in your research or department
- meet faculty/staff with similar interests and explore interdisciplinary research

Students:

- meet mentors from a chosen field
- gain insight from faculty & staff in a relaxed setting with peers

Reasons Students indicated they connect with Faculty in Hall:

- 74% Advisement on Classes
- 61% Career Options or Opportunities
- 60% Advise on Study Skills
- 56% Assistance on Course Enrolled In
- 51% Internship ?’s & Info
- 22% Considering Changing Major
- 26% Other (mentorship, interact with professional in field, etc.)

FACULTY AND STAFF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING WITH STUDENTS

Why is this important?

Surveys and research show that a strong connection between students and faculty outside of the classroom significantly impacts students’ success in college. This is especially true in areas of retention, enhanced learning, application of theory to real world situations and increased social and intellectual development. (Astin, Pascarella, Terenzini)
“At first I was wary that students from my other course would hesitate to come see me during my office hours in Trinity, but that wasn’t the case; in fact, perhaps more came because Trinity was closer—and cozier—than my office.”

—Melanie Senn, College of Liberal Arts faculty

“Meeting with some of my Math professors in my first quarter of college not only helped me plan my schedule for my college experience, but also solidified my drive to be a math major.”

—Devin Harvey

Consider partnering with us if you have an idea to share with students or if you want to interact with students to support their success.

**Academic Initiatives**
http://housing.calpoly.edu

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**Cal Poly**
University Housing
Student Affairs