

The Results:

Students involved in living-learning community

Students Involved in School Sanctioned Activities

Yes	100%
No	0%

Average Hours Spent Studying Daily

0-1	7.1%
1-2	7.1%
2-3	28.6%
3-4	28.6%
4-5	21.4%
5 or more	7.1%

Average Class Periods Missed Weekly

0	78.6%
1	21.4%
2	0.0%
3	0.0%
4	0.0%

Limitations

- Non-response error = 61%
- Small sample size = larger margin of error
- Judgment sample = can not project data beyond sample

Students ~~not~~ involved in living-learning community

Students Involved in School Sanctioned Activities

Yes	64.5%
No	35.5%

Average Hours Spent Studying Daily

0-1	9.7%
1-2	6.5%
2-3	51.6%
3-4	16.1%
4-5	12.9%
5 or more	3.2%

Average Class Periods Missed Weekly

0	45.2%
1	38.7%
2	6.5%
3	6.5%
4	3.2%

Recommendations

- Continue to offer courses or programs to keep students connected
- Gather data on community through graduation
- Discuss adding additional programs
- Search for grant opportunities

About BHSU

Founded in 1883, Black Hills State University is a four-year, public liberal arts institution. We take great pride in providing students, faculty and alumni with a world-class university experience.

- Location - Spearfish, South Dakota (population 10,000)
- Campus - 123 acres
- Enrollment (2005) - 3,888
- Faculty with Terminal Degree - 77 percent
- Housing - 5 Residence Halls (3 co-ed, 1 male, 1 female), 1 Apartment Complex
- Male/Female Ratio - 35-65 percent
- School Colors - Green and Gold
- School Mascot - Yellow Jacket
- Student Body- 82 percent from South Dakota; 18 percent from 34 other states and six countries
- Student/Faculty Ratio - 20:1
- Students receiving financial assistance – 85 percent

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Survey Findings of the Living-Learning Community Project

Success of the Living-Learning Community: Increased Social Interaction and Improved Study Habits



Success of the Living-Learning Community: Increased Social Interaction and Improved Study Habits



Academic scholarships are used by higher education institutions to recruit and retain outstanding students. Ordinarily, students must meet and maintain very specific requirements in order for their scholarships to be renewed. At Black Hills State University (BHSU), there are two academic scholarships that are used for this purpose, the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship (SDOS), which is a state sponsored endowment and the Academic Achievement Scholarship (AAS), which is an institutional contribution.



South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship

In order to renew the scholarship the student must

- Complete 15 credit hours per semester
- Maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA
- Attend consecutive fall and spring semesters

Academic Achievement Scholarship

In order to renew the scholarship the student must

- Complete 30 credit hours per academic year
- Maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA

History/Problem – Nearly 50% of the students who received these awards lost them before their sophomore year by failing to meet the minimum requirements.

Solution – In the fall of 2005, a pilot program called the Thomas Hall Living-Learning Community was established. Incoming freshman students who had been

awarded either or both of these scholarships were invited to participate in the program.

Question – This study was designed to investigate whether participating in this community environment promotes productive study habits and healthy social interactions. This research also explored whether being involved with this program had a positive correlation to the success of these students in achieving the minimum requirements needed to retain their scholarships.

Requirements of the living-learning community

- Be an academic scholarship recipient
- Live in Thomas Hall
- Participate in the Emerging Leaders program
- Enroll in designated Wellness 100 course

Methods – Descriptive research was conducted through the use of surveys distributed to academic scholarship students residing in the dormitories.



Thomas Hall Living-Learning Community Mission Statement

“Students will work closely with a team of university faculty and staff to build a community grounded in the belief that college freshmen need to establish a healthy lifestyle that nurtures the mind, body and spirit to achieve academic goals and successfully accomplish a bachelor’s degree in four years”.