

## 3.E - Core Component 3.E

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The institution fulfills the claims it makes for an enriched educational environment.

1. Co-curricular programs are suited to the institution's mission and contribute to the educational experience of its students.
2. The institution demonstrates any claims it makes about contributions to its students' educational experience by virtue of aspects of its mission, such as research, community engagement, service learning, religious or spiritual purpose, and economic development.

### Argument

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**3.E.1.** ISU offers a broad array of co-curricular programs that enhance students' academic experiences. Highlights of these programs are provided below.

#### The Division of Student Affairs

Many of ISU's co-curricular programs are facilitated through the Division of Student Affairs and the Dean of Students Office. A wide range of co-curricular programs support different populations (e.g. Multicultural Student Affairs, Greek Affairs, and International Students and Scholars); many have been highlighted previously in the assurance argument (3.D.1. and 3.D.2). The [Annual Report of the Division of Student Affairs](#) and the [2014 Program Summary of the Dean of Students Office](#) provide details that support the breadth of offerings of these units.

**Student Organizations and Clubs** coordinated by the [Student Activities Center](#) are key to student engagement at ISU. There are [over 800 student organization and clubs](#) in various categories: academic (by college), Greek life, honor societies, multicultural, military, media, music and performing arts, political, religious or spiritual, residence, service, special interests, and sports/recreation.

**ISU's Learning Communities Program** has both curricular and co-curricular elements. [ISU offers 80 different learning communities and over 70% of incoming first-year undergraduate students participate in a learning community.](#) There are [discipline-based learning communities, residential living-learning communities, and special interest/populations learning communities.](#) Learning communities provide a small group experience for students within the larger university. Most learning communities utilize peer mentors as a part of their programming, with a peer mentor connecting with 15-20 students. Learning communities at ISU have demonstrated positive effects on retention rates. In ISU's latest [Learning Communities Retention and Graduation Rate Report](#), six-year graduation rates of learning community participants are 9.3% higher than the non-learning community average of 62.9%. Retention rates for students who join a learning community upon entry are 7.7% higher than non-learning community peers, and this increases to 9.2% for second year students (2008 admissions).

#### Recreation Services/Intramurals

According to a [consortium survey](#), **92%** of students have used ISU Recreational Services (including recreational facilities, programming and intramurals) at least one time; 84% indicated that "Rec services offer something for everyone." Overall, 92% would recommend [REC] facilities, programs, and services to others.

## Lectures Program

The [Lectures Program Report](#) summarizes activities of the program, including the Committee on Lectures, and subcommittees planning the World Affairs Series, National Affairs Series, and FOCUS. The Lectures Program, which schedules more than 120 speakers each year, provides a critical supplement to formal learning experiences at the University and makes a major contribution to the intellectual environment for students and faculty as a center of learning, innovation and vision. The quality of the program is recognized nationally by receiving the International Platform Association's Drew Pearson Award for excellence in university lecture programming and by the National Association of Campus Activities.

## Honors Program

The [Honors Program](#) offers an enriched academic environment for students of high ability (GPA above 3.5, ACT average 30+), regardless of major, who are interested in taking advantage of educational and intellectual opportunities and challenges. These include the pursuit of a broad liberal education, the ability to individualize the student's program of study, access to graduate-level courses, and the opportunity to be involved in research projects. Benefits include flexible curriculum, access to honors sections, priority registration, grants and scholarships, research activities, and access to other co-curricular programs. The Honors Program also coordinates undergraduate research across campus.

**3.E.2.** As a land-grant university, ISU provides students the opportunity to engage with the community in a variety of ways. As reflected in the [university's application to the Carnegie Foundation for the Community Engagement Classification](#), in 2012-2013 ISU had 96 courses in 31 academic departments, enrolling 6,841 students, that contained service learning or community engagement components. Community engagement goes beyond service learning to also support economic development. For example, 5-30 students each year are engaged in projects with the Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS), a unit jointly administered by the Office of Economic Development and Industry Relations and Extension and Outreach. CIRAS provides research and technical assistance to enhance the economic performance of Iowa's industries.

ISU is a member of the Iowa Campus Compact, part of a national Campus Compact coalition of 1,200 college and universities dedicated to promoting community service, civic engagement, and service-learning in higher education.

As a research intensive university, ISU provides students the opportunity to engage in research and creative activities at the undergraduate and graduate level. Criteria 3.B.5. provides details about the engagement of students in research at ISU.

## Sources

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- 2013-14 Student Affairs Overview
- 2015 Carnegie Community Engagement Submission
- Dean of Students Programs FY2014
- Honors Program Annual Report 13-14
- Learn Community List S15 web
- Learning Communities Retention Graduation Rates
- Learning Community Web Highlights

- Lectures Program Annual Report FY14
- Recreation Svcs Consortium Survey-2013-2014
- Student Activities Center Annual report- 13-14
- Student Organizations at ISU 2015