

Student and Faculty Learning Communities to Increase Graduation Rates in STEM Disciplines Western Michigan University (WMU)

Goal: Increase Graduation Rates in STEM Disciplines by Improving Retention of First-Year STEM Students through Student and Faculty Learning Communities.

Student Demographics: WMU serves a diverse student population: ACT math scores in 2005 ranged from 15 to 35 with a mean of 24.6; math placements vary from computational skills (high school math) to Calculus II; 28% of STEP participants are first-generation college students; and 30% are employed during the academic year.

Faculty Learning Community to Improve First-Year STEM Courses

Create Course Clusters to Promote Connection and Study Group

Co-Curricular Activities to Develop Career Awareness and Life-Long Learning

Service-Learning Provides Context for Teaching and Learning Design

