Learning Commons Strategic Plan

Mission Statement:
The Learning Commons fosters the development of diverse competencies learners need to achieve their educational goals by providing services, resources and expertise for both students and instructors to promote academic success, within and beyond the classroom.

Current partners of the Learning Commons are: the York University Libraries, the Writing Department, Learning Skills Services, the Career Centre and the Teaching Commons. The Learning Commons partners work with students in a variety of ways such as individual sessions, workshops and online. The Learning Commons also collaborates with faculty to promote academic literacies for students through the curriculum.

Core Values:
- Collaboration
- Student-centred support
- Developmental approach to learning
- Holistic & Integrated
- Academic literacies

Strategic Pillars:

1. Students: Engagement

Engage students through events and activities that help foster academic success. Promote the resources, services and expertise of the Learning Commons.

   1.1. Identify and develop communication strategies for promotion to and engagement of students.

2. Students: Services/Support

Provide a variety of in-person supports for students including workshops and consultations that address academic competencies.

   2.1. Oversee Learning Commons workshops and drop-in programming.

   2.2. Explore the development and coordination of programming to prepare and support students in experiential education at York.

   2.3. Collaborate with FGS in developing and delivering workshops (and other programming) for graduate students.

2.4. Develop online academic literacies workshops (using e-learning software such as Captivate) that may be delivered as live interactive sessions or archived for asynchronous access.

3. Students: Elearning

Create online resources to assist students in the development of academic competencies.

3.1. Explore the creation of an online tool to help students identify and navigate academic support services available at York University.

3.2. Continue to develop and maintain SPARK – create new modules on selected topics, develop quizzes, and assess the impact and effectiveness of SPARK.

3.3. Redesign Learning Commons web site.

3.4. Develop capacity for Learning Commons partners wishing to engage within Moodle environments by providing training and professional development.

3.5. Explore programming to support students in achieving success in e-learning environments.

4. Faculty

Foster students' academic success by empowering York instructors to embed academic literacies instruction in course and program curricula. (In collaboration with the Teaching Commons and other strategic partners)

4.1. Design and provide materials, workshops and discussion opportunities to assist York faculty members in embedding academic literacies instruction in their courses and programs.

4.2. Design and deliver programming for TAs and graduate student instructors on how to build reading, writing and research skills into a course context (eg. integration in the Course Design for Graduate Students offering at the Teaching Commons.

4.3. Develop online resources for course instructors and TAs to provide independent and flexible options for building students' academic literacy skills into course or program contexts incrementally.

4.4. Share expertise with instructors on academic literacies instruction by providing one-on-one consulting for instructors on course and/or assignment design related to students' reading, writing, library research skills.

4.5. Foster fluency in the research and practice of academic literacy skills development in the higher education context by hosting events such as reading groups, retreats, and by creating online resources for faculty.

5. Space/Learning Environments

Provide physical and virtual learning environments that foster student learning, collaboration and engagement.

5.1. Seek opportunities and resources to build the second phase of the Learning Commons in the Scott Library, including more central teaching and programming space.

5.2. Explore the development of a research or learning commons at the Steacie Science & Engineering Library.