



# 2025-26 DEI Listening and Feedback Session Report: Students

## Overview

In accordance with Washington state requirements, community and technical colleges facilitate DEI listening and feedback sessions when formal campus climate assessments are not underway. 31 students participated in a series of sessions held in the winter of 2026. Five questions were used in sessions facilitated collaboratively by the Offices of DEI and Institutional Research.

## Question 1: Welcome and Inclusive Environment

*LCC strives to be a welcoming and inclusive community for all students. What are some of the ways LCC has made you feel welcome or included?*

Themes emerging from the students as a result of this prompt include:

- **Events and other opportunities.** Respondents cited multiple Student Activities-hosted events (build-a-bear, Harvest Fest, PRIDE events, ping pong and pizza, etc.) and other opportunities, such as study abroad. Onboarding and first-day-of-the-quarter events were also cited.
- **Positive and welcoming staff.** Citing everything from the general “culture on campus of positivity” to specific areas such as the library and the gym's front desk, respondents noted that staff are respectful and responsible. One respondent expressed appreciation for the staff's willingness to use students' preferred names.
- **Faculty excellence and attitude.** Several respondents commented on having excellent and friendly instructors. COLL 101 helps students feel included.
- **Help from advisors.** Respondents appreciated the ability to build class schedules that work for them, including accommodating athletic and student club schedules, as well as the information provided about the availability of different program options.
- **Student clubs.** Multiple respondents commented that the ability to join student clubs and become part of those groups is important to them, including the Fighting Smelt and SAGA.
- **International students and events.** International students expressed appreciation for the availability of resources and globally inspired events on campus.

- **Diversity and Equity Center.** Respondents noted that the Diversity and Equity Center is a welcoming and inclusive space (including the “decompression room” sign).
- **Food resources.** The food pantry and availability of gluten-free options in the cafeteria were noted. The BFET program was also noted.
- **Mental health resources.** The availability of free on-campus counseling was cited by multiple respondents.
- **Informal study spaces.** The number and variety of “third places and spaces” for studying outside the library are appreciated.

## Question 2: Unwelcome Experiences

*Please describe any experiences you’ve had at LCC within the last year that have made you feel unwelcome or excluded. What could LCC have done differently to prevent that from happening?*

Themes emerging from the students as a result of this prompt include:

- **Class schedule changes.** College-initiated changes, particularly near the start of the quarter and sent without any explanation, can be challenging.
- **Availability of help.** Respondents expressed that they did not always receive the help they needed with topics such as math help (instructors and tutoring) and financial aid.
- **Accuracy of payment information in ctcLink.** It was noted that payment information is not always up-to-date in ctcLink.
- **Racism in student social groups.** One respondent reported incidents of racism from other students occurring in their social groups.
- **Communication from college leadership.** Some respondents noted that students are frequently excluded from college communications regarding budget or other major institutional decisions. This includes the Student Government.
- **First day experiences.** Students can feel lost on their first day, and noted that the college can do more to “reach out to those who are lost.”
- **Communication from Student Government.** It was noted that the Student Government has information not commonly known to other students.

## Question 3: Sense of Belonging

*LCC regularly surveys students and asks them the degree to which they feel like they belong at LCC. This is referred to as “Sense of Belonging” and is considered one of the college’s most important performance indicators. What specific actions would you recommend the college take to increase the Sense of Belonging for all students?*

- Offer Student Activities events twice (on different days) to accommodate block class schedules.
- Organize/offer more study group opportunities.
- Offer new student support (e.g., Welcome tents) every quarter, not just in the fall.

- Provide tours for new students.
- Simplify campus maps and include where to find parking.
- Schedule athletic events closer to the end of classes so more students will stay on campus to attend.
- Information about being respectful in class should be discussed by faculty in class, in addition to being on the syllabi.
- Faculty should talk about how nondiscrimination policies are implemented, not just mention that it's on the syllabus.
- Provide more availability of counseling appointments on campus.
- Expand the hours of basic resources, such as the Food Pantry, to accommodate all students' schedules, including nursing students.
- Provide a male restroom on the second floor of the Student Center.
- Provide more gender-neutral restrooms.
- Promote the availability of campus showers (GYM and RCA) to all students, not just those enrolled in Drama or Physical Education classes. Provide towels (RCA). "Changing how we provide them that's less embarrassing and more private."
- Provide recycling bins for student housing.
- Provide more diverse events and more events at different times to accommodate students' varying schedules.
- Have the faculty promote more events in their classrooms.
- Communicate about student club opportunities more clearly.
- Offer career assessments for ongoing students, not just new students.
- Provide more targeted events to bring online students to campus.

## Question 4: Recommended Changes

*If you could change one thing about LCC, what would it be?*

- More parking spots.
- Provide activities to reduce the disconnect between vocational and other students.
- Improve Canvas discussion posts to offer more "real-time" opportunities.
- More helpful tutoring.
- Provide a more detailed campus map that shows walking paths and indicates which subjects/classes are taught in each building.
- Reducing onboarding requirements for students transferring in a lot of credits.
- More communication to students, including but not limited to Student Government events and activities.
- Change policies related to security searches of student backpacks. Better communicate what is allowed, offer more privacy for students when backpack contents are searched ("dumped out"), and rely more on security cameras and less on personal searches. "Security invading people's privacy without the student knowing they have the legal right to do that. Change how people know what Security is allowed to do, what their legal rights are, etc."

- Provide more information/transparency about why international students are not allowed to enroll in certain bachelor's programs.
- Provide better customer service when there are discrepancies between the amount owed as displayed in ctcLink and what students are being told through other channels.
- Provide clearer guidance on which classes to take for your degree pathway.
- Provide opportunities for student-athletes to make connections outside of Athletics.
- Offer more in-person classes (OLTM program).
- Reduce the wait time for advising appointments.
- Provide more in-person classroom presentations and physical outreach for programs like TRiO.
- Provide more guidance on identifying and connecting with your advisor.
- Offer some lower-cost options in the cafeteria.

## Question 5: Other Comments and Suggestions

This open-ended question allowed respondents to share additional thoughts.

- Maintain academic freedom.
- Increase consistency in grading practices.
- Increase consistency in homework requirements between different subjects/classes.
- The pace of the quarter system is great.
- Tutoring could be more helpful.
- Appreciative of LCC's welcoming environment.
- Do more promotion of listening sessions for students.
- Provide better guidance on how to access student resources. "It's hard to figure out on your own."
- Decrease wait times/honor scheduled times for advising appointments.
- Promote events in the Rose Center more.
- LCC is doing a great job with inclusion efforts.
- Academic accommodations (re: changes in credit load to promote success) have been really helpful.
- "You can definitely tell it's a student-oriented place, especially with small classes. The fact that it's student-oriented helps students get a degree."
- Faculty and professional advisors are great at helping you get to your goals.
- Offer more events, such as the international week, and more events tailored to online students.
- Love the student activities emails.