

Some Benefits of Learning Communities

Research clearly indicates that Learning Communities have a crucial and desirable role in higher education. Some benefits, compiled from multiple resources are outlined below:

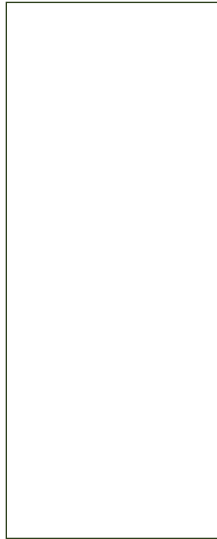
- Raises levels of academic and social achievement
- Provides opportunities for deeper, more meaningful, and connected learning
- Creates a practice ground for skill development within a meaningful context
- Promotes critical thinking, functioning in a group, negotiation, and communication skills
- Prepares students for work environments during college and after graduation

What Students Say

“The best and worst thing about the Martín-Baró Scholars Community is that you can’t escape learning. Conversations continue after the classroom empties and the exploration of ideas never ceases.” —Megan P.

“The highlight of the Martín-Baró Scholars Community is when we go into the city on field excursions. Not only do we get to see a new part of the city and explore it more, but we also come into contact with people and do things that we never would have done . . . the best way to learn!” —Andrea W.

“I learned how to communicate my feelings and most importantly, I got a chance to understand the meaning of friendship and its relation to the community.” —Alex P.



Martín-Baró Scholars Program
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*USF's unique
Living-Learning
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www.usfca.edu/living-learning

About the Martín-Baró Scholars Program

THE MARTÍN-BARÓ SCHOLARS PROGRAM is a two-semester long, community-based residential learning program at the University of San Francisco. The program integrates core requirements and elective units into a single, comprehensive curriculum that examines issues of citizenship, social justice, and diversity. Using the City of San Francisco and the surrounding Bay Area as an experiential laboratory, students develop their abilities in observation, discussion, analysis, and writing through the multidimensional lens of the social sciences. Students will be proactive in improving the societal problems they examine throughout the year. While the Program satisfies some basic core requirements for freshman students, the educational goals reach far beyond attaining the minimum standards; the Program is designed to facilitate the creation of a learning community which learns not only from within, but also extends that learning into the larger world.



MBS students refurbishing a local elementary school playground.

Engaging with Poverty

What is poverty? Who is affected by poverty? How does it contribute to other large social problems in San Francisco? In the U.S.? In the world? In what ways does education play a central role in reducing and ultimately eliminating poverty? This year the central focus of the Martín-Baró Scholars Community is poverty. These and many more questions will serve as the text for discussions, excursions, service, and community events throughout the academic year.

Apply now

www.usfca.edu/living-learning
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Credits Earned

Students who successfully complete both semesters (fall and spring) in the Martín-Baró Scholars Community, earn the following credits:

Writing and Public Speaking
(Cores A1 and A2; 8 units)
Literature (Core C1; 4 units)
Service-Learning (SL) designation
Cultural Diversity (CD) designation
Elective credit (4 units)

Who was Martín-Baró?

Ignacio Martín-Baró, S.J., was a disciplined professional who worked tirelessly as a Jesuit priest, psychologist, and as Vice Rector of the University of Central America.



His self-discipline was balanced by a true passion for helping the poor and advancing social justice in El Salvador. These passions, which conflicted with the governmental agenda of Salvadoran military leaders, prompted his execution-style murder in November 1989. His life work has strengthened the Jesuit mission of ministry, service, and teaching the poor and serves as inspiration for others who seek to create a socially just world.