Here is some feedback I received about the benefits of the Organic Learning Communities (OLC)

- Overall, I had a great time with OLC. It was nice to connect with my classmates outside the lectures and would recommend to continue using it for future classes.
- This was a great experience for a hard class like this because having people you know and can text for help and notes if you missed a class.
- I definitely did benefit from having a group - I had my work done on time, homework was easier to do, and understanding difficult problems became simpler.
- I realized that talking out problems with other people helps me understand the material as well as catch simple mistakes that I could potentially make on an exam.
- I think the fact that we did become friends was also a positive because it can be very difficult to make friends at a school that uses the quarter schedule.
- I found that I was more willing to ask questions and be unsure about topics in my study group than I was with asking during class or even going to office hours (I'm just that type of person).
- A study group ended up being extremely helpful because even if not one of us understood something, we all felt a bit less overwhelmed since we knew that we were not alone.
- We actually suffered together which was okay because that boosted our confidence towards this class.
- I have never been a part of a study group before! I really enjoyed it.
- Also we were able to help one another understand difficult topics because we could look at the problems from multiple perspectives rather than relying solely on our own perspective.
- It was very convenient knowing that if I had any questions about what was going on in class, that I could jot them down and ask the group at our next session.
- This created a level of support that reduced stress in other areas and allowed me to focus more on my coursework.
- One of the biggest advantage of meeting in a group was being able to ask questions that we weren't able to ask in class. It truly felt like teamwork and the work [we] did not seem as bad when all our brains were combined.
- For the second midterm, I knew how to study better thanks to the learning community group.
- I got to meet more people, and it was a great experience for me, as I never enjoyed studying with friends or in public areas.
- When I taught my classmates, I gained a deeper understanding of what I was teaching. In fact, there is proof that one shows a deep understanding of the material if they know how to teach it properly.
- I did better than I thought I would do and frankly I believe it was due to the study group. The study group served to reinforce topics and also helped me to longer remember the material.
- We quickly found out that putting our heads together and piecing together our knowledge was the only way we were all going to be able to succeed in organic chemistry.
- [The OLC] has changed my opinion about working in groups. It let me see that working in groups is not always a bad thing.
- It is sometimes hard to study and understand every detail of the lecture when studying alone. Study partners could point out notes that I missed, and vice versa.
- I believe that this also teaches students the value and meaning of teamwork by working together on problems to reach a solution. Teamwork is a valuable aspect that they can carry with them on to their future careers.
- Overall I would say that group work was exceedingly helpful. For topics that I did not understand, I had the help of others who did understand it. For topics that I did understand, I was able to explain it to everyone else and it enforced the knowledge that I did have of the material.
- I came to realization that working with a group of students working on the same thing as you, makes it more relatable and fun.