

Student Activities Programming Philosophy

At the U.S Merchant Marine Academy, programming seeks to enrich the on-campus living experience by embracing and fostering the core competencies of community, civility, personal development, an appreciation of all midshipmen, living-learning focused environments, and by being midshipman centered. These competencies will help guide you as you develop programs to help educate your residents, build community in your company, and to expose midshipmen to all that campus has to offer.

Throughout the year, you will be assessing the needs for your community so as to be able to identify program topics that respond to the dynamic nature of your community.

Appreciation
for all
Midshipmen

Midshipman
Centered

Learning
Focused

Civility

Personal
Development

Community

CORE
COMPETENCIES

Company Morale Officer Programming Expectations

Monthly Requirements

- One active company program
- One weekend campus program (Saturday/Sunday in Land Hall)
- One campus collaboration
- One informal program
- Updating floor bulletin boards

Additional Expectations

- Active programs must be designed around all six of the core competencies
- Campus collaboration programs must be designed around all six of the core competencies
- All required programming paperwork (i.e. program planners) must be turned in, in advance by one week.



The Breakdown

Informal Program

A spontaneous or semi-spontaneous event of activity in which the CMO engages a group of residents. These events do not need a program planner, but must be tracked by the CMO and submitted monthly.

Weekend Program

Active program organized & facilitated by the CMO in Land Hall open to all. This program would be scheduled not to overlap with another CMO's programming in Land Hall. The program would take place on a Saturday afternoon or evening.

Active Program

A program organized & facilitated by the CMO for their hall or floor, that engages residents in some kind of activity or event that reflects a core competency area.

Campus Collaboration

An already planned campus event that the CMO elects to attend with residents that the residents might not normally attend. This event must reflect a core competency area.



Using Learning Objectives

Company Morale Officers will use learning objectives in order to state the outcome of their program. While initially a program's learning objective may seem to be the same as a goal for the program, in actuality, the two are different ideas. A goal is a statement of the general outcome of an overarching program. A learning objective is a statement of a specific performance, the achievement of which contributes to the attainment of the goal. Learning objectives explain in specific detail how your program will meet the programming goals.

Why Use Learning Objectives

Writing a clear learning objective for your program as you begin to plan will help you to:

- Focus on the specific content of the program.
- Develop a strategy for presenting the program.
- Develop materials to use in the presentation.
- Help you to evaluate the success of the program.

Writing Learning Objectives

- First, it is important to identify your target audience.
- Next, state the general topic of what the resident will learn or experience through participating in the program.
- Finally, the RA will state how the resident will learn or experience that topic.

EXAMPLES

A learning objective for an wellness program may look as follows:

“Plebes in third company will learn the how to reduce stress by hearing tips, guided meditating and making stress balls.”

Another example would be:

“Members of First Co will have the opportunity to build team work skills by competing in a series of low ropes tasks and icebreakers”

Programming Examples

		Active	Campus Collaboration	Informal <i>(*Doesn't need a core competency)</i>	Bulletin Board
Midshipman Centered Appreciation for All Midshipmen Learning Focused Civility Personal Development Community	Midshipman Centered	Take Mids to the cardio room and record the calories they burn. Then, to Delano to see how much food they just burned. Balancing output and intake.	Take residents to the calisthenics club workout event at the field.	Play ultimate Frisbee with some midshipmen	Put up a bulletin board with information on the effects of alcohol consumption and safety tips.
	Appreciation for All Midshipmen	Facilitate activities dealing with social identity and lead a discussion about how it affects out campus.	Take residents to the Midshipman council's Diversity Speaker	Organize a Netflix marathon for members of your company.	Put up a bulletin board with information about African American History Month, LGBT History Month, etc.
	Learning Focused	Lead a program to help guide midshipmen on time management	Take midshipmen to the Sea Fair.	Have regular group study night in your floor lounge.	Put up a bulletin board with tips for study skills and time management.
	Civility	Hold a mock presidential election in your hall and have a program to discuss the candidates & issues in the upcoming ballot and the importance of voting.	Take residents to participate in "Sexual Assault Awareness" week activities or volunteer with Acta Non Verba	Take residents to clean up the park or shore.	Put up a bulletin board promoting good citizenship and behavior on TMs
	Personal Development	Have an arts and crafts event where residents can use various mediums to create personal life maps to depict their important life experiences and then explain it to their peers	Take residents to attend a career fair.	Go on a group run around the neighborhood	Put up a bulletin board with relationship tips for Valentine's day.
	Community	Lead a group of midshipmen to the Met's game or organize a group to play laser tag	Plan a cheering section for Hockey's game on the weekend	Have a floor board game night.	Have your residents submit mini-bios to you and put up a bulletin board where mids can learn about each other.

Program Proposals, Attendance & Assessment

Proposals

When you begin the planning process for an Active or Campus Collaboration program, it is important that you consult your RMO or Director of Student Activities to get feedback so you can make your programs the best they can be. This process involves submitting a program proposal. A program proposal is a form you fill out to go over all the things that your program needs and entails. You will need to submit your program proposals in advance so that they have time to work with you on your program before you finalize things. Submitting program proposals can be done virtually via a link. Informal programs just need to be recorded.

**You can find the program proposal here:
<http://tinyurl.com/MoraleProgram>**

Attendance

At each of your Active programs, you will be required to keep an attendance sheet to track the names of the residents who attend. After your program, you'll submit your attendance sheet to the Director of Student Activities.

Assessment

After you have an Active or Campus Collaboration program, it's important to understand what went well, what didn't go well, and whether you were successful in accomplishing your goals. After you have finished a program you will fill out a program assessment form, similar to the program proposal. You and your supervisor will then discuss what to take away for future programs.

Additionally, your supervisor may ask you to handout program attendance surveys to residents as they are leaving your program. These are short surveys that will help you evaluate your program's effectiveness.

