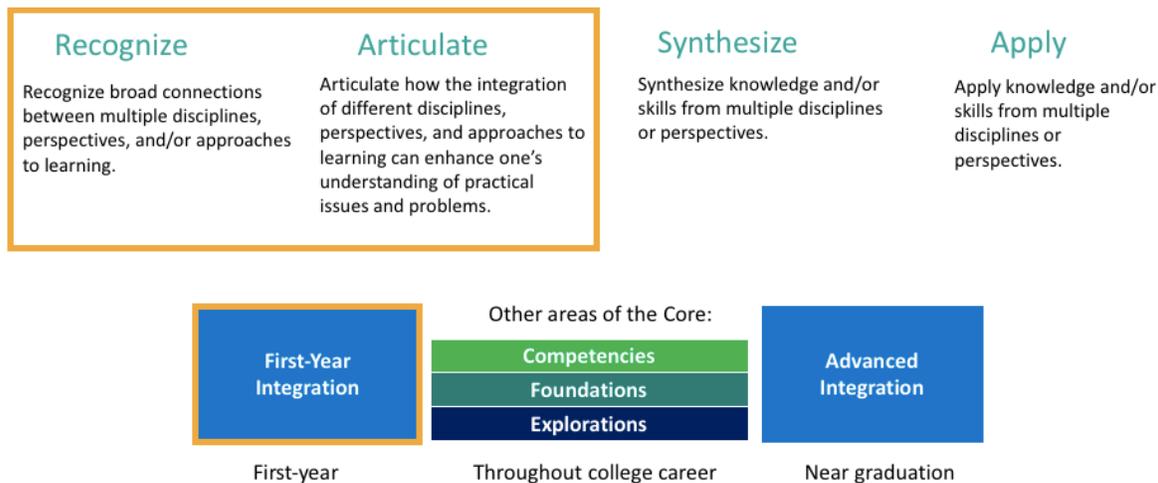


**INTEGRATIVE LEARNING AT UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO**

Integrative learning is scaffolded into a first-year and advanced component. During the first-year students *practice* then *demonstrate* recognizing and articulating connections between disciplines in their learning community course.



*This project focuses on the “practicing” portion of First Year Integration.*

### Practicing First Year Integration

There are two models:

- an *open classroom* where one professor opens their regular class to other students in their learning community and talks about a topic from their disciplinary perspective
- a *faculty exchange* where multiple professors bring their classes together to talk about a topic from their respective disciplinary perspectives

In both models, students then complete a common *Practicing First-Year Integration Assignment*. Faculty provide students feedback using a standard, faculty-designed, rubric. For example:

	<b>Mastery</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Introductory</b>
<b>Having experienced the Faculty Exchange (FE), you have now witnessed a given topic through the lenses of two disciplines. How have these different approaches/perspectives contributed to your own thinking about the topic?</b>	Articulates an expansion of thinking directly as a result of participation (e.g., “before attending the Faculty Exchange...”) and indicates vision of the FE topic as being enriched/expanded because of exploration of connections between the two disciplines. Uses the topic as a framework from which the value of seeing from multiple perspectives is articulated.	Articulates connections between the topic and the two disciplines that were presented the Faculty Exchange. Can articulate seeing the topic as relevant to both disciplines but does not present as an overarching framework. Can articulate how a problem/issue is solvable from each separate perspective.	Cannot successfully articulate connections between the topic and the two disciplines. Cannot successfully articulate or has difficulty seeing the value of attending the integrative experience.

*“This experience.. made me realize that it requires a collective effort to solve a worldwide problem, such as the problem of poverty. Multiple ideas should be taken into consideration, for there is not only one correct answer. It is always beneficial when there is a team of collective individuals who work together to aspire to create change and solve a problem relevant to the community. Therefore, [the faculty exchange] promotes the idea of working together and helps me realize the benefits of collective effort and teamwork.” -First-Year student*

## Results of Project During Third Year of Implementing First Year Integration Core Requirement

A set of indirect assessments for USD's first-year integration core curriculum component provided insights that were not possible by direct assessment alone. Collectively, these results led to several actions:



### \*Increased faculty training and support:

- **New** Practicing First Year Integration assignment grading retreat
- **New** First Year Integration Project Planning Workshop
- **Enhanced** training at the two official faculty training workshops
- **New:** compilation of examples from faculty for inspiration: sample First Year Integration Project prompts and rubrics, how to scaffold the project over the semester, samples Practicing First Year Integration student "answers and scores" with rationale.

### How This Can Be Useful to Assessment at Your Institution, Questions for Participants

1. Can you think of a project involving direct assessment that could benefit from adding a survey or other indirect assessment?
2. What surveys does your institution already employ?
3. To be sensitive to "survey fatigue" could you add questions to existing surveys that are already taking place?
4. How will you use the results of your projects for actionable change? How can engaging faculty and students help?
5. Students are at the heart of what we do. How can you increase student involvement in assessment?

### Contact Information

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Thank you!