

Cross-Disciplinary Instruction Continuum

Cross-Disciplinary Approaches	Related Terms	Characterized by	When would this be applicable to my teaching and why?
Predisciplinary	Integrated, thematic	Every day, common sense knowledge; exploration associations among existing knowledge without using a strong disciplinary frame (Most commonly used in early elementary school)	
Disciplinary	Subject based	Traditional school subject area; academic disciplines; discipline-based concepts	
Correlated	Multidisciplinary, complementary, juxtaposed, parallel, sequenced, thematic, webbed	Discipline-based concepts related to common topics across disciplines (for example, literature may be correlated with history or geography); instructions independent of one another with few explicit connections to illuminate different facets of the shared concept, issue, or problem	
Shared	Thematic, interdisciplinary, integrated, broad field curriculum	Overt concepts overlap across disciplines (for example, the concept of justice in literature and social studies); disciplines mutually supportive; instruction in specific disciplines still independent	
Reconstructed	Synthesized, blended, fused, core curriculum, problem centered, integrated, integrative	Concepts reconstructed across disciplines, eliminating disciplinary boundaries; instruction reconstructed to merge concepts and understanding across disciplines	

Source: Adapted from Applebee, A. N., Adler, M., & Flihan, S. (2007). *Interdisciplinary curricula in middle and high school classrooms: Case studies of approaches to curriculum and instruction*. *American Educational Research Journal*, 44(4), 1002–1039.