



Curriculum Integration Made Simple: Develop Your Action Plan

Cindy Kraft, NAFSA Region II Conference



Session Goals

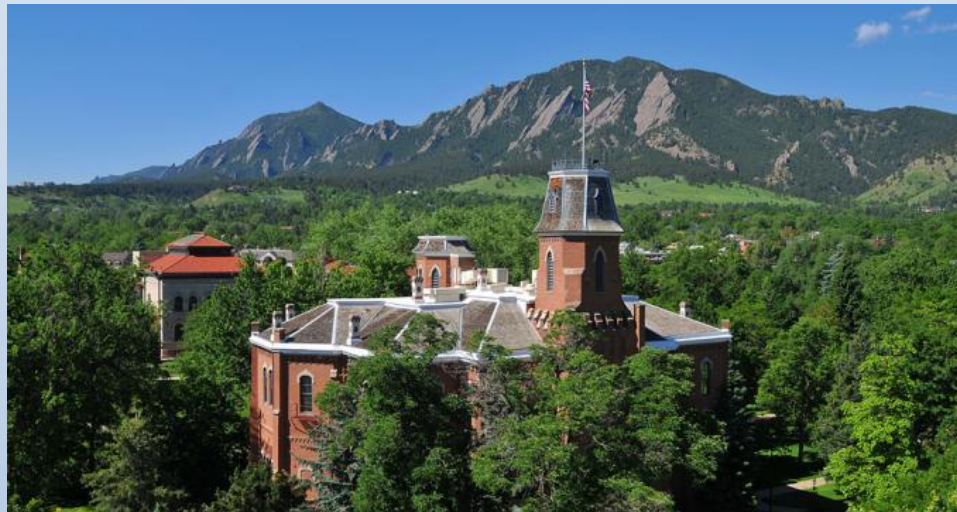
- Develop a more simplified vision/definition for C.I.
- Identify small steps we can take
- Determine what will work at our individual institution
- Brainstorm ideas for small steps and larger goals
- Leave with an action plan



Copenhagen, Denmark, Photographer Unknown

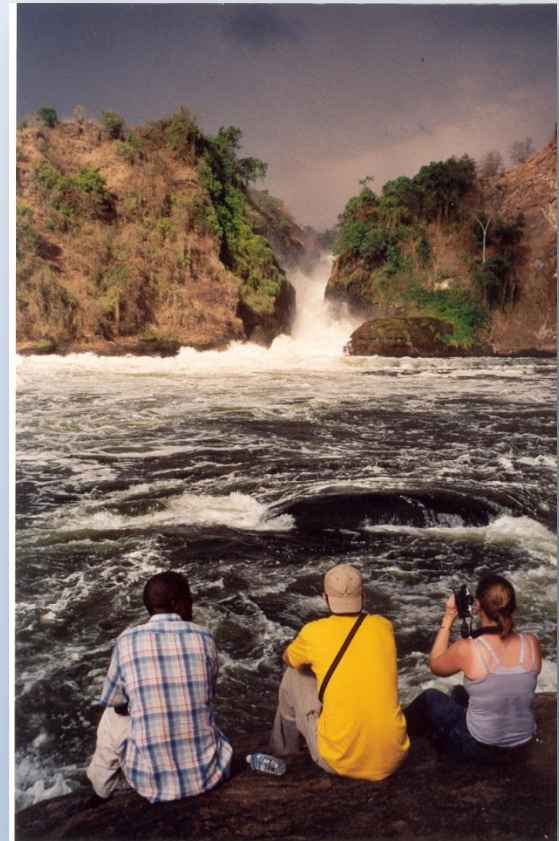
Quick profile of CU-Boulder

- Large, public research institution – flagship campus
- ~30,000 students
- Most majors represented (Engineering, Business, Architecture, etc.)
- Study abroad is quite centralized



Challenges of implementing C.I. at CU-Boulder

- Intimidating! “We’ll never be able to match what XYZ university/college is doing!”
- Where to start?
- Not enough staff time
- Want to “do it right”
- Lack of responses/action from departments



Murchison Falls, Uganda, Photographer Unknown

C.I. Successes at CU-Boulder

- Creation of 15 “major guides”
 - Some had to be de-activated
- Worked with three colleges on C.I. from start to “finish” (are we ever really finished?)
 - Best success story: Architecture
- Creation of pre-approvals list for major/minor equivalencies (almost 4,000 courses on the list)



Monterrey, Mexico, Photo by Levi Lindsey

C.I. lessons learned: CU-Boulder

- **Trying to flat-out copy others**
 - Learn from others, but know what works for your institution. The exact approach taken by other institutions may or may not be the most effective approach at *your* institution.
- **Trying to over-plan it**
 - C.I. Sometimes C.I. just “happens to you.” Go with it and celebrate it.
- **Being too obsessed with a precise model**
 - C.I. can exist in a number of formats.
- **Being paralyzed into inaction because we didn’t know where to start**
 - Don’t be afraid to start small.
- **Recognizing the “right” customers**
 - You may actually want to “slow-track” a department that seems overly complicated and may produce little growth

Keep it simple

- View Curriculum Integration as any partnership with an academic department - don't over-think it.
- If it strengthens ties, it counts!
- If it helps promote student participation, it counts!
- If someone else (the department) initiates it, it counts!



Student Presentation in
Madrid, Spain by Unknown

Don't miss the resources



- While we caution against 100% copycat-ing, there are great resources to consult
- The following NAFSA webpage is a nice summary with additional links
- This link is the first google result if you type “*NAFSA Curriculum Integration Best Practices*”

http://www.nafsa.org/Find_Resources/Supporting_Study_Abroad/Network_Resources/Education_Abroad/Curriculum_Integration_Best_Practices/

Photo credits: Excavations in Rome, Italy, by Diane Conlin

Developing your action plan: sample action items & goals

Quick & Easy tasks

- Discuss an idea with your Director/boss
- Set up a meeting with an Academic Advisor
- Work with low-to-mid-hanging fruit to hold an event to promote study abroad
- Ask a department to evaluate some courses, but start small (even 10 courses could help)!
- Send an email to a department about a program (or a few programs) that work well for their students
- Look at 3 examples of major advising sheets/guides from other institutions
- Ask a student worker to develop a master template for major advising sheets/guides at your institution
- Develop a sample statistical report for a department – aim for 4-6 graphs
- Delegate something on your to-do list to a student worker and then vow to use that time on one of the above!

Larger, long-term Goals

- Hold a meeting with all key “players” in a department and discuss a C.I. plan
- Work with an “easy” department to develop your first major guide/advising sheet
- Set up a meeting with the Chair (or appropriate faculty member) in a department
- Compile a comprehensive course review list and send to a department
- Ensure that course equivalencies for your faculty-led programs are comprehensive and posted for students
- Develop a C.I. strategic plan – identify departments and specific timelines
- Develop a system for posting course approvals (or improve your current system)
- Ask your university statistics office to run a report on study abroad & graduation rates
- Do a training for Advisors in your office on 3 majors that are “difficult” to advise

Additional Small Action Ideas: brainstorm with session attendees

- Ask providers for a report of top majors (in general and for specific programs).
- Have provider rep meet with a department during their next visit
- Give a C.I. document or resource to a key person on campus
- Share your annual report with all departments (showing participation in each department and creating jealousy)
- Finding out if they need a specific accreditation in order to approve the courses (and then matching that with your offerings)
- Offer a free lunch for faculty (or Academic Advisors) on C.I.
- Coordinate faculty/staff on a site visit (through provider is easiest)
- Start with faculty-led program Director to kick off C.I.
- Have a focus group with returned students and a department
- Decide on your term or definition for C.I. – “curricular mapping?”

Additional Larger Goals: brainstorm with session attendees

- Create a position to coordinate study abroad course approvals
 - Or co-fund a position with another relevant department (i.e. Registrar, transfer credit, etc.)
- Ask for access to the relevant system that processes and posts approvals/courses
- Ask the relevant department (or registrar, transfer unit) if they have a running list of course approvals – you’d be surprised!
- Consider using the course feature in StudioAbroad or other system you already have
- Working on getting a pre-approvals list for your “gen ed” requirements
- Make sure pro-actively prepare for completing necessary updates and maintenance of any system or resource that you implement
- Identify domestic opportunities that are international in nature
 - Mark international courses in your course catalog that have a high degree of international focus



Summary



- Benefit from successes at other institutions, but do what works for YOUR institution
- What impresses your boss might not be what students actually *need*
- Start small
- Keep it simple – “outreach” to departments may lead to formal C.I. work
- Use Academic Advisors as much as possible – they are great allies
- Recognize a broad definition of C.I.

Your Curriculum Integration Action List

[illegible]

