



Liberal Education & Effective Practice

**LIBERAL EDUCATION  
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## **LEEP in the Classroom**

### **What is LEEP?**

Liberal Education and Effective Practice (LEEP) is the ongoing undergraduate education renewal based on the Final Report of the Task Force on Undergraduate Education, approved by Clark faculty in April of 2009. Through LEEP, Clark will make the link between knowledge and action more explicit, thereby preparing students to address the challenges of a rapidly changing world. LEEP implementation began with the class of 2014.

In response to the Task Force, in fall of 2009, Clark faculty formally endorsed the following five educational goals:

Clark graduates will possess the following characteristics:

- 1) Knowledge of the Natural World and Human Cultures and Societies: *The acquisition of this knowledge will be focused by rigorous engagement with big questions, both contemporary and enduring.*
- 2) Intellectual and Practical Skills: *These skills will be practiced extensively, across the curriculum, in the context of progressively more challenging problems, projects, and standards for performance.*
- 3) Personal and Social Responsibility: *These abilities will be anchored through active involvement with diverse communities and real-world challenges, taking particular advantage of Clark's urban location and global connections.*
- 4) Ability to Integrate Knowledge and Skills: *This will be experienced through progressively more advanced knowledge creation, contextual reasoning, and the construction of shared meaning and opportunities for reflection.*
- 5) Capacities of Effective Practice: *These will be demonstrated by application of knowledge and skills to issues of consequence and by emerging membership in larger communities of scholarship or practice.*

LEEP espouses a developmental perspective in which the undergraduate experience is organized around three phases: transition, growth and exploration, and synthesis and demonstration.

Each successive phase in the cycle marks:

1. more extensive practice at intellectual and practical skills,
2. increased social responsibility and agency, with students growing to organize and direct their own learning; and
3. additional opportunities to integrate and apply knowledge.



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### **The Three Phases of LEEP:**

**1) Transition Phase:** marks the initiation of the new student into the community and provides initial support for student success. In this phase, students will sharpen the fundamental skills (especially verbal literacy and formal analysis) that will assist them in making the most of the distinctive features of a Clark education. All first-year students will choose and complete a First Year Intensive (FYI) course designed to support their transition.

**2) Growth and Exploration Phase:** allows students to explore knowledge of human cultures and of the natural world. During this phase students will balance breadth and depth of learning, and will be given opportunities to integrate learning from various disciplines. They will be provided with opportunities to apply knowledge with agility and creativity to new contexts, and ideally they will be provided with opportunities to stretch their learning in ways that provide global and international experiences.

**3) Synthesis and Demonstration Phase:** provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate the capacity to take on responsibility for organizing learning and constructing new knowledge. Students will demonstrate their ability to synthesize and construct new knowledge in sufficient depth as to add value to some larger community. An important characteristic of this phase is that students will show their growing ability to integrate their learning, and to draw effectively on the help of others (faculty, students, and staff) as resources.

For more information about LEEP including, more detailed information about and resources for Phases 1 and 2, please visit:

<http://www.clarku.edu/departments/cctl/leep/index.cfm>

Please do contact CETL ([cctl@clarku.edu](mailto:cctl@clarku.edu)) with any questions you might have about LEEP including how to incorporate the goals of LEEP into your courses.