

## Introduction to the Stages of Development

There are four developmental stages in the Envision YU curriculum: Comprehending, Developing, Applying and Advancing, which can be valuable when setting learning outcomes and rubrics for assessing student achievement of Envision YU modules.

In first- and second-year courses, you may want to focus on the Comprehending and Developing stages whereas third- and fourth-year course could raise the bar by integrating module components that require Applying and Advancing stages of competency.

By integrating all the components of a module in a single course, you can guide your students through all four stages of development.

For example, let's look at a student's capacity to transfer knowledge, where they demonstrate their ability to perceive connections between course concepts and apply knowledge and skills to solve new and/or more complex problems in a variety of context including experiences beyond the classroom.

Initially during the comprehending stage, the expectation is that with support and guidance from the instructor, the student will make connections between course content and experiences outside the classroom and apply the skills and knowledge gained previously to understand new situations or ideas presented in class.

As the student develops, they will be able to connect concepts, theories, and facts from more than one course, field of study, or perspective when prompts or examples are provided by the instructor. At this stage, they will begin to use prior skills and knowledge to understand and evaluate problems or issues.

As the student progresses to the application stage, they will be able to apply their knowledge and independently make connections between course content and experiences to deepen their understanding of the fields of study and career paths directly related. Eventually the student can use this knowledge and newly developed skills to solve new problems or issues, make decisions and seek learning opportunities.

And finally, the student advances by making meaningful connections between their courses and field of study, the world around them and their career aspirations, even when these connections are not immediately apparent. This will help the student draw conclusions by considering multiple perspectives or theories. They can now seek and nurture connections with people, places and activities that spark their curiosity inside and outside of the classroom. In the advanced stage, students are continuously and confidently using new skills, experience, available resources and supports to make decisions necessary to formulate and execute a plan to achieve intended project and/or career goals.

Additionally, students may encounter the same Envision YU learning modules in several courses throughout their degrees, so they will be able to progress through the stages with greater awareness of their development in specific areas of the Envision YU curriculum over time.

