

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT
THEORY:
HELP FOR OUR STUDENTS

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Welcome & Introductions



- Thank you for coming!
- So glad you are here!
- Who are you?
- Who am I?

What we can accomplish



- We have minimal time
- Good start to generally understand Student Development Theory
- Understand our students
- Understand how we can better help them

Student Development Theory?



- The body of theories related to how students gain knowledge in higher education settings
- Knowledge of where our students are in the human development continuum
- Understand the student as a whole, not just a student, student worker, client, daughter/son, etc.
- Legitimizes Student Affairs professionals and the profession to academia

Student Development Theory



- Different types of theories:
 - Psychosocial
 - Cognitive-Structural
 - Typological
 - Kolb Experiential Learning
 - Myers-Briggs
- Can work with any students, or you can find a theory that matches a student who needs your help

Student Development Theory!



- Pick a theory, any theory, as long as you like it and feel that you can use it
 - ▣ For your student's development
 - ▣ To act as a guide for you and your help to them
- May need to shop around, there are plenty to choose from
- Read about them you will get a more generalized view of the student body

What Theories Typically Include



- Title & purpose
- Organizational aid
 - ▣ Vectors, themes, stages, phases, statuses, etc.
- Continuum of learning
- Application of theory
- Caveat from me

- Ready for this?

Chickering's Theory of Identity Development – The Seven Vectors

1. Developing Competence
2. Managing Emotions
3. Moving Through Autonomy Toward Interdependence
4. Developing Mature Interpersonal Relationships
5. Establishing Identity
6. Developing Purpose
7. Developing Integrity

Application of Chickering's Theory



- Used mainly in Residence Life and sometimes Student Life arenas of the university
- Programming vs. beliefs
- Foster development
 - ▣ Thinking
 - ▣ Abilities
 - ▣ Interpersonal relationships

King & Kitchener's Reflective Judgement Model

- Stage 1: Knowledge is absolute
- Stage 2: Knowledge is certain, but not immediately accessible
- Stage 3: Knowledge is certain or temporarily uncertain
- Stage 4: Knowledge is uncertain
- Stage 5: Knowledge is contextual and subjective
- Stage 6: Knowledge is constructed in conclusions

Application of King & Kitchener's Model

- Helpful when connecting learning and decision making
- Use of role modeling as learning
- Can see use in group discussions
- Use of programming for dissemination of information
- Can be used to understand diverse student populations

Why Theory?



- Understanding of student's development through their college career
- Aids in understanding the needs of different students based on their life experiences
- Logical progression of learning at college

How Can We Help?



- Each student has a starting point
- Give students a basic knowledge to start from to be successful
- Think of prerequisite classes
- Students are different, some might need more help than others

Transition



- First year or younger students might have more transition issues to college
- Class sizes, roommate, friends, different relationship with significant others or parents, etc.
- Pay attention to when they are struggling to better find out why they struggle

Fit



- Experienced students having problems might have a fit issue
- Finding out what is important in their lives, no connection to school, degree issues, personal issues, etc.
- Continue your relationship with them, refer, offer support, be a good mentor

University Initiatives



- Retention/ Student body enrollment
 - If a student feels understood or connected, they are more likely to stay
 - Word of mouth
 - Retain more diverse students
- Inclusive Excellence
 - Models based on diverse students
 - Holistic approach
 - More diverse diverse-students

Questions & Thank You



- Thank you so much for allowing me to share this with you today
- Please ask me any questions you may have
- Enjoy the rest of your day!