

ACUE Learning Design

Narrator [00:00:05] Welcome to the virtual tour of an ACUE module. We created this video to help you understand how the learning design that underpins our modules works to guide you from foundational knowledge to deeper thinking, preparing you to try one or more of the recommended evidence-based teaching practices and then reflect on the experience in order to continually improve your practice. Each module includes five sections, with each section designed to meet specific learning goals and to align with adult learning theory principles. The module section titles include 1. Engage, 2. Listen, Watch, & Learn, 3. Deepen Thinking, 4. Practice & Reflect, and 5. Close Strong. I'll be explaining the learning goals of each section, how the design of each section meets those learning goals, and how the design aligns to adult learning principles. We include the information on adult learning because we want you to know that we designed our modules to serve adult learners. We also recognize that more and more of the students entering college today are full-fledged adults with adult responsibilities. Therefore, these design principles may be helpful for you to consider as you work to serve the adult learners in your classroom or online course. Our overarching goal is to ensure you have a solid understanding of how each section works to support you in not only learning about evidence-based teaching practices, but preparing you to use those practices in your work with students and in designing courses.

Narrator [00:01:53] The design of the Engage section meets a multitude of learning goals. These goals include piquing your interest, surfacing your prior knowledge about the topic, ensuring you understand why each topic is relevant to your work, making clear what you will learn, and, finally, asking you to consider which of the learning objectives is of most interest to you. We meet those learning goals by beginning with a compelling video and asking questions to surface prior knowledge.

José Antonio Bowen, PhD [00:02:29] The most important thing for any teacher, whether it's online or not, is that relationships matter, and the perception that you care is the primary issue of teaching. So when you're teaching online, it matters just as much.

Narrator [00:02:44] This is followed by the rationale or explanation regarding why the topic is relevant to your work. Below the rationale, we list the learning objectives in bold letters, and underneath each learning objective is a bulleted list of the teaching practices aligned to that learning objective. The page also includes a skeletal outline which you can download and use to take notes as you work through the module. We end this section with a Pause & Plan exercise that asks you to choose the learning objective you believe might be most impactful for the courses and students you are teaching this semester. The choice you make here helps inform the videos you will watch in the next section of the module.

Narrator [00:03:31] The Engage section meets adult learning principles by recognizing the experience you bring to this work and being crystal clear about what you will learn and why it is relevant to the work you do. The two learning goals of the Listen, Watch, & Learn section include your gaining an appreciation for how to best implement the recommended practices, as well as an understanding of why they work to engage students and deepen their learning.

Narrator [00:04:04] We meet the first goal by starting this section with a video or videos titled Course Demonstrations. These video demonstrations allow you to see faculty using the recommended practices in their classrooms and online courses, hear from those faculty about why they use the practices, and hear from their students about how the practices helped them learn.

Lindsay Wright, PhD [00:04:27] I send students a welcome message when the course opens so they get notified that the course is available and to help encourage them to go ahead and log into the course.

Sarah, Student [00:04:36] When my instructor sends me a welcome message, it really makes me excited for the first day of class.

Narrator [00:04:42] When there is more than one Course Demonstration video, the previous Pause & Plan exercise is designed to help you focus on the most important videos connected to the learning objective you selected. The Course Demonstration videos are followed by a podcast or video featuring experts who share their thoughts about the validity and effective use of the module teaching practices.

Flower Darby [00:05:07] It's important to set a positive tone so that the initial impression is one that stays with the student for the duration of the semester.

Narrator [00:05:17] The Listen, Watch, & Learn section meets adult learning principles by providing the resources needed to learn on your own. The learning goals of the Deepen Thinking section include specifically addressing the challenges and misconceptions you might have about the topic and ensuring you have the opportunity to learn with and from your peers. We meet those learning goals by first offering suggestions and clarifications from the literature that address common challenges and misconceptions in the module topic area.

Narrator [00:05:53] This is followed by the Observe & Analyze section, which offers you the same opportunity to analyze a video or text representation of a developing practice where some of the module practices are done well, while other practices may need to be adjusted or tweaked. After watching the video or reading the text, you have the opportunity to engage in an online discussion with your peers about the parts of the practice that are done well, as well as the parts that could be improved. This section of the course aligns to the adult learning principles that emphasize the need for adult learners to have opportunities for applying the knowledge and skills gained to address the real-life problems they encounter.

Narrator [00:06:39] The primary goal of the Practice & Reflect section, along with all of the previous sections, is to inspire you to try out one or more of the practices presented in the module in your classroom or online course, and then reflect on the experience in order to continuously improve your practice. We meet those goals by first having you Pause & Plan a second time. This time, we ask you to identify the practice or practices you think would be best to implement in your course. Once you make that choice, you are presented with the step by step resources needed to effectively implement the practice you chose. Finally, we ask you to complete a written reflection about your experience using the practice. In order to earn a badge for completing the module, your reflection must meet the criteria outlined in the rubric and checklist we provide. You will also find a reflection guide that you can use to help organize your writing and submit as your reflection.

Narrator [00:07:44] This section also includes a survey regarding what you learned and implemented, as well as what you might want to implement in the future, which we report back to you at the completion of the course. The Practice & Reflect section aligns to the adult learning principle that adults enjoy learning by doing, and that they seek out practical solutions to real-life challenges or problems.

Narrator [00:08:08] The goal of the Close Strong section is to prepare you to effectively utilize your continued access to the course. We meet that goal by first offering you the opportunity to write a note to your future self about the items or ideas you want to remember from the module. You are also provided with the resources to implement any of the practices recommended in the module, as well as a list of the faculty and experts filmed and the references used to build the module. You will receive a personalized report titled the What's Next Report that includes the note you wrote to yourself and a list of the practices you indicated wanting to implement in the future so you can continue to add to and refine your teaching practice. The Close Strong section aligns to the adult learning principles that adults benefit from being offered the tools and resources to support their ongoing learning and that adult learners seek learning opportunities for professional growth.

Narrator [00:09:16] That brings us to the end of the module tour. I hope this video has helped you more fully understand how every section of every module supports you in both learning about evidence-based teaching practices and using those practices in your work with students and in designing courses.