



# Design Thinking

Using a Student Centered Approach to Create  
an Educational Engagement Plan

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# Design Thinking is a process for designing

[https://medium.com/@c\\_the\\_most/design-thinking-methods-for-career-planning-7af7e5b27cd1](https://medium.com/@c_the_most/design-thinking-methods-for-career-planning-7af7e5b27cd1)



Usually we're so hard on ourselves about our career, what if we used EMPATHY instead, as we do with our users

# Design Thinking: Curricular Design

1. Who is the course serving? What do the students need? (Empathy Stage)
2. Who has designed courses that encourage exploration and ownership of career paths? What do we know works? (Define Stage)
3. What activities will add value for students? Select activities that ask students to reflect and explore careers as well as introduce and practice skills and competencies (Ideate Stage)
4. Create curricular plan (Pilot Stage)
5. Pilot course (Test Plan)

# Design Thinking: A Student Generated Career Plan

1. Students explore their desire to become scientists (Empathy Stage)
2. Students research and identify content knowledge, skills and competencies needed to become scientists (Define Stage)
3. Students select experiences needed to become scientists: explore academic plans and **engagement plans** (Ideate Stage)
4. Students build pilot plans (Pilot Stage)

Design  
Thinking:  
Students  
Explore  
Undergraduate  
Research

1. Students explore their desire engage in undergraduate research (Empathy Stage)
2. Students review disciplinary undergraduate research guides, attend undergraduate research symposium, identify faculty, complete a reflection (Define Stage)
3. Students interview faculty and find a match (Ideate Stage)
4. Students attend group meetings and try out research groups (Pilot Stage)

# Design Thinking: Student Generated Engagement Plan

1. Students asked to imagine the most ideal career path (Empathy Stage)
2. Students define skills and competencies needed. Then explores internships and abroad experiences (Define Stage)
3. Students select experiences needed to achieve career path: **engagement plans** (Ideate Stage)
4. Students build pilot plans (Pilot Stage)

# Curriculum Mapping of Design Thinking Stages

- Use the worksheet:  
identify prompts, activities, skills developed, and reflections

# Lessons Learned Using Design Thinking

- Technology needed: Canvas, Zoom; nothing new
- Funding: none
- SEN support: FYS modules
- Teaching Strategies: Opportunity for teaching group work, learning skills, communication skills
- Motivation: Provide a common thread for FYS
- Barriers: Best if done collaboratively so to provide multiple points of view in the Define Stage; need to find another open minded colleague



# Resources

- SEN: My Journey Plan
- Existing Curriculum eg. Moral Moments
- See PSU 016 reflection examples

# Works cited

- <http://lifedesignlab.stanford.edu/>
- [https://medium.com/@c\\_the\\_most/design-thinking-methods-for-career-planning-7af7e5b27cd1](https://medium.com/@c_the_most/design-thinking-methods-for-career-planning-7af7e5b27cd1)