Dimensions of Learning: The Basics

Dimensions of Learning is a research-based instructional framework developed by Robert J. Marzano. The research he began in the 1990s represents solid pedagogy and is still relevant and applicable to 21st century learners. According to Marzano (1992), learning involves a complex system of interactive processes that includes five types of thinking.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to

Module 1

- Understand how attitudes and perceptions about learning affect students' dispositions regarding classroom climate and classroom tasks.
- Propose solutions to increase the promotion of positive attitudes and perceptions in a classroom situation.

Module 2

- Understand the way knowledge can be organized to increase students' acquisition and integration of knowledge.
- Develop strategies for helping students acquire and integrate declarative and procedural knowledge.

Module 3

- Identify strategies for explicitly teaching students complex reasoning skills and processes.
- Differentiate the eight thinking processes that help students extend and refine knowledge.

Module 4

- Examine processes that help students use declarative and procedural knowledge meaningfully.
- Develop tasks that employ extending and refining knowledge and that use knowledge meaningfully.

Module 5

- Understand how productive habits of mind serve as a backdrop to learning and support lifelong learning.
- Propose strategies for fostering productive habits of mind in students.

Module 6

- Understand how and why Dimensions of Learning is an effective model to use when designing performance tasks that assess student knowledge.
- Design a performance assessment task using the Dimensions of Learning model.

Course Syllabus

Module 1	**Dimension 1: Promote Positive Attitudes and Perceptions About Learning** Module Welcome • Reading: Dimension 1: Promote Positive Attitudes and Perceptions About Learning • Video: Attitudes and Perceptions Check for Understanding • Module Review Module Journal
Module 2	**Dimension 2: Acquire and Integrate Knowledge** Module Welcome • Reading: Dimension 2: Acquire and Integrate Knowledge • Video: Acquisition and Integration of Knowledge Check for Understanding • Application: Plan for Acquiring and Integrating Knowledge • Module Review Module Journal
Module 3	**Dimension 3: Extend and Refine Knowledge** Module Welcome • Reading: Dimension 3: Extend and Refine Knowledge • Video: Extending and Refining Knowledge Check for Understanding • Module Review Module Journal
Module 4	**Dimension 4: Use Knowledge Meaningfully** Module Welcome • Reading: Dimension 4: Use Knowledge Meaningfully

	• Video: Using Knowledge Meaningfully Check for Understanding • Application: Plan for Extending and Refining Knowledge • Module Review Module Journal
Module 5	**Dimension 5: Productive Habits of Mind** Module Welcome • Reading: Dimension 5: Productive Habits of Mind • Video: Productive Habits of Mind Check for Understanding • Module Review Module Journal
Module 6	**Performance Assessment and Dimensions of Learning** Module Welcome • Reading: Dimension 6: Performance Assessment and Dimensions of Learning Check for Understanding • Application: Plan for Performance Assessment • Module Review Module Journal

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Resources

Marzano, R. J. (1992). *A different kind of classroom: Teaching with dimensions of learning.* Alexandria, VA: ASCD.

Marzano, R. J., Pickering, D. J., & McTighe, J. (1993). *Assessing student outcomes: Performance assessment using the dimensions of learning model.* Alexandria, VA: ASCD.

Marzano, R. J., & Pickering, D. J. (1997). *Dimensions of learning*. Alexandria, VA: ASCD; and Aurora, CO: McREL.