

Graduate Development Conference
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3—3:50

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Backward Design

Wiggins, G. and McTighe, J. (1998).
Understanding by Design. Alexandria, VA:
Association for Supervision and Curriculum
Development.

“Design”

...to have purposes and intentions, to plan and execute.

Oxford English Dictionary

To **begin with the end in mind** means to start with a clear understanding of your destination. It means to know where you're going so that you better understand where you are now so that the steps you take are always in the right direction.

--Stephen R. Covey, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*

Stages in Backward Design Process

- Identify desired results
- Determine acceptable evidence
- Plan learning experiences and instruction

- Core ideology—what drives or motivates you?
Why are you pursuing a graduate degree?
 - Example: I think it's important that graduate students know what relevant resources are available to them at MSU.
- Envisioned future—what state do you wish to be in in the future?
 - Example: I hope every attendee acts on at least one idea discussed in the workshop.

- What is your core ideology?
- What is your envisioned future?

How about you?

- Core ideology:
- Five-year (post graduate school) goal:
- Within five years of receiving my graduate degree, I hope to _____.
- I will know I've achieved this if _____.

Now comes the planning

- What experiences at MSU will help you achieve your goal?
- What experiences outside of MSU will help you achieve your goal?

In five years post MSU, I will..



To be there in five years, I would like experience in...

- At MSU
- Outside MSU



In order to gain these experiences, I can...

- At MSU
- Outside of MSU