HOW FACULTY CAN USE TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT STUDENTS' SELF-DIRECTED SKILLS FOR MANAGING THEIR LEARNING

Postsecondary Teaching with Technology Collaborative

Problems of Practice

- COVID increased urgency to improve teaching and learning in online courses
- Need for strong self-directed learning skills are more profound in online courses
- Need more information about strategies to improve equitable outcomes in online courses using technology
- Opportunity to use tools to embed self-directed learning instruction in online course

> Self-directed learning is how students manage their own learning – it comprises core motivational, metacognitive, and strategic aspects of learning.

Applied Learning Processes

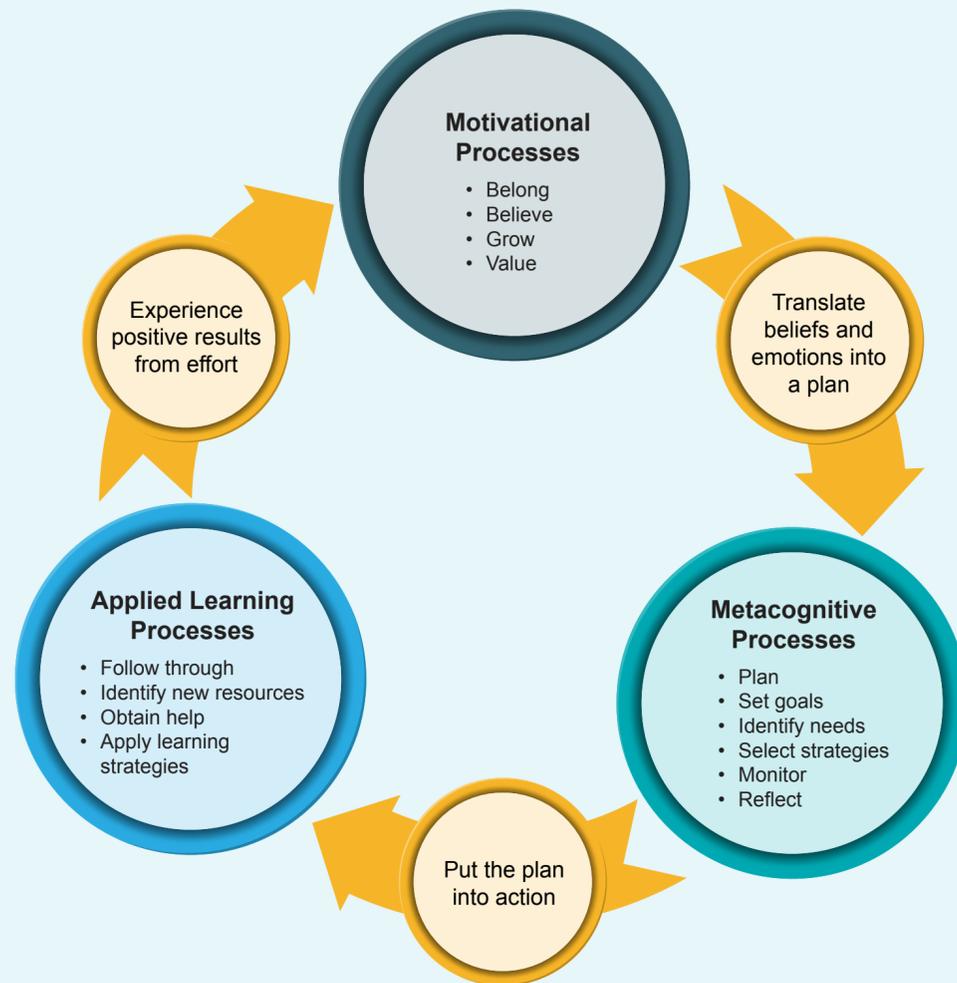**Applied learning processes** involve putting the plan into action.

Example: Use adaptative components of LMS platform to support study planning and provide embedded study tips.

About Us!

The Postsecondary Teaching with Technology Collaborative, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, is a research and capacity-building center that aims to study and improve **how faculty teach** and **use technology** to help students build **self-directed learning skills** and increase students' success in postsecondary **online STEM courses**.

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Self-directed Learning Framework

Motivational Processes
- Belong
- Believe
- Grow
- Value

Translate beliefs and emotions into a plan

Metacognitive Processes
- Plan
- Set goals
- Identify needs
- Select strategies
- Monitor
- Reflect

Put the plan into action

Applied Learning Processes
- Follow through
- Identify new resources
- Obtain help
- Apply learning strategies

Experience positive results from effort

Solution

An emergent framework to help guide the design, delivery, and testing of tech-enabled instructional strategies to support student's self-directed learning in online courses!

Motivational Processes

Motivational processes are emotions and beliefs around learning.

Example: have students create brief videos about their triumphs, concerns, and questions – both for self-reflection and to share with their peers to create a sense of belonging

Metacognitive Processes

Metacognitive processes serve as the executive function, translating the emotions of motivation to a plan of action.

Example: Create a series of prompts to reflect on progress in the course and map out next steps throughout the course to encourage student practice of SDL skills

What Can You Do?

Practitioner:
- Implement new tech-enabled supports in your courses to further SDL instruction.
- Help inform the field about best practices for teaching SDL skills in online courses.

Developer:
- Embed new features that support SDL skills & mindsets into your tools.
- Share information regarding existing tools that can support SDL.
- Work with online faculty to develop, test, and share your tools.