

Student Development and Learning Theories

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Abstract

The college experience is a “developmental journey from dependency on external authority to reliance on [students] leading their lives [individually]” (Piper & Mills, 2007, p. 219). When college administrators, student services personnel, faculty, and staff better understand this student journey through the college experience, they can be more valuable in successfully assisting students. One of the first steps in understanding the developmental journey mentioned above is to have background knowledge about student development. This topical provides information about student development theories, student identity theories, student learning theories, and how to stimulate student success in the college experience.

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