

The Mastery Learning - Model of Instruction

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Learning Objectives

By the time you complete this workshop, you will be able to:

- Define mastery learning
- Plan for mastery learning
- Teach for mastery learning
- Grade for mastery learning
- Identify effective learning strategies

A Snapshot

Define mastery learning

CORE IDEA OF MASTERY LEARNING: aptitude is the length of time it takes a person to learn not how "bright" a person is, i.e., everyone can learn given the right circumstances.

Notes from Benjamin Bloom lecture [ACSA, April, 1987]

Ninety percent of students can learn what is normally taught in schools at an A level if they are given enough time and appropriate instruction.

Plan for mastery learning

- Course level objectives are defined to indicate mastery of the subject at the course level.
- The substance is divided into relatively small learning units, each with their own learning objectives and assessment of mastery.
- Lesson plans are carefully designed and followed. Learning materials and instructional strategies are identified. (Include instructional handouts / rubrics)

Teach for mastery

- Teaching, modeling, practice, formative evaluation, re-teaching, reinforcement and summative evaluation are included.
- Each unit is preceded by brief diagnostic tests (activities, assignments, projects).
- The results of diagnostic tests are used to provide supplementary instruction to help students overcome problems.
- Time to learn must be adjusted to fit aptitude.
- *NO STUDENT IS TO PROCEED TO NEW MATERIAL UNTIL BASIC PREREQUISITE MATERIAL IS MASTERED.*

Suggestions: Grade for mastery

- Give two or more chances to succeed on each activity, project, quiz or final exam. Provide instructional feedback prior to the second attempt.
- Always provide a rubric along with the assignment.
- Base grades on:
 - Actual number of objectives mastered.
 - Number of units completed. (DUA = Do until accepted)
 - Proficiency level reached on each unit.
 - Any combination of above

Review: Principles of the Mastery Learning experience

Ninety percent of students can learn what is normally taught in schools at an A level if they are given enough time and appropriate instruction;

Enough time means:

Time required to demonstrate mastery of objectives.

Appropriate instruction means:

- Break course into units of instruction
- Identify objectives of units.
- Require students to demonstrate mastery of objectives for unit before moving on to other units.

Students can work at own pace if course is so structured, but mastery learning can be accomplished with group instruction.

Effective learning strategies

- Active learning strategies
- Constructivist learning strategies
- Cooperative learning strategies
- Authentic learning strategies
- Reflective learning strategies.

What about Inspiration?

A great teacher inspires learning.....

2 teach, is

+2 touch lives

= 4 ever

"A student is not a vessel to be filled, but a lamp to be lit".

How can teachers inspire mastery learning in students?

- Share examples of your work with your students
- Provide positive feedback as well as constructive feedback
- Provide insights as to why it is important for students to master the material or concepts
- Facilitate more than lecture

- Encourage discovery learning
- Model

From the quote garden@ <http://www.quote garden.com/teachers.html>

- I like a teacher who gives you something to take home to think about besides homework. ~Lily Tomlin as "Edith Ann"
- The dream begins with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you to the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called "truth." ~Dan Rather
- In teaching you cannot see the fruit of a day's work. It is invisible and remains so, maybe for twenty years. ~Jacques Barzun
- Teaching is the profession that teaches all the other professions. ~Author Unknown
- A teacher is one who makes himself progressively unnecessary. ~Thomas Carruthers
- A teacher who is attempting to teach without inspiring the pupil with a desire to learn is hammering on cold iron. ~Horace Mann
- A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops. ~Henry Brooks Adams
- A good teacher is like a candle - it consumes itself to light the way for others. ~Author Unknown
- The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires. ~William Arthur Ward
- The best teacher is the one who suggests rather than dogmatizes, and inspires his listener with the wish to teach himself. ~Edward Bulwer-Lytton
- A teacher's purpose is not to create students in his own image, but to develop students who can create their own image. ~Author Unknown
- Teaching should be full of ideas instead of stuffed with facts. ~Author Unknown
- Teaching is leaving a vestige of one self in the development of another. And surely the student is a bank where you can deposit your most precious

treasures. ~Eugene P. Bertin

- Teachers who inspire know that teaching is like cultivating a garden, and those who would have nothing to do with thorns must never attempt to gather flowers. ~Author Unknown
- Teachers who inspire realize there will always be rocks in the road ahead of us. They will be stumbling blocks or stepping stones; it all depends on how we use them. ~Author Unknown
- Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.
- One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child. ~Carl Jung
- The teacher who is indeed wise does not bid you to enter the house of his wisdom but rather leads you to the threshold of your mind. ~Kahlil Gibran
- The task of the excellent teacher is to stimulate "apparently ordinary" people to unusual effort. The tough problem is not in identifying winners: it is in making winners out of ordinary people. ~K. Patricia Cross
- The best teachers teach from the heart, not from the book. ~Author Unknown
- Who dares to teach must never cease to learn. ~John Cotton Dana
- To teach is to learn twice. ~Joseph Joubert, *Pensées*, 1842
- You can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives. ~Clay P. Bedford
- I am learning all the time. The tombstone will be my diploma. ~Eartha Kitt
- Man's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions. ~Oliver Wendell Holmes
- Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere. ~Chinese Proverb
- Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. ~Henry Ford
- Don't try to fix the students, fix ourselves first. The good teacher makes the poor student good and the good student superior. When our students fail, we,

as teachers, too, have failed. ~Marva Collins

- The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery. ~Mark Van Doren

Conclusion

- Teachers who practice the mastering learning instructional model will not be satisfied with assigning a grade on the first attempt and then moving on. They will continue to work with each student until mastery is achieved. This is true teaching.
- The goal is to ensure that all students master all the course objectives before moving on.