Getting to a Theory of Action
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Goal

• Describes the ultimate outcome, expressed in terms of students’ needs to learn and succeed.
• Takes the form of a statement that is specific, measureable, achievable by you, relevant to systems goals, and time limited (SMART).
• Changes as students’ needs change.

Problem of Practice

• Raises the underlying challenge you and your team must resolve to reach the goal.
• Takes the form of a question that can be explored and tested through a design and impact assessment process.
• Changes as you experience learning or success.

Theory of Action

• Describes a chain of events that resolve the problem of practice to reach the goal.
• Takes the form of an “if/then/finally” statement or a flow chart.
• Changes as you experience learning or success.