Aisami's 5D Model

for Planning, Teaching, and Evaluating Online Courses

Introduction and Overview

Riad S. Aisami, Ph.D.

Planning, teaching, and evaluating an effective online course require a rigorous and systematic process that integrates essential principles of instructional design with the purposeful use of digital technologies. Technology alone does not produce meaningful learning. An online course succeeds when its instructional components work together to enable the targeted learners to achieve clearly stated goals and measurable learning outcomes.

Aisami's 5D Model for Planning, Teaching, and Evaluating Online Courses provides a systematic framework for creating and delivering effective online learning experiences. Introduced in 2005 and subsequently refined through research, teaching, and professional practice, the model consists of five interrelated stages: the Define Stage, Design Stage, Develop Stage, Deliver Stage, and Determine Stage.

The model follows the systematic instructional-design tradition associated with frameworks such as ADDIE - Analyze, Design, Develop, Implement, and Evaluate. However, the 5D Model was developed specifically for web-based and online education. It distinctly emphasizes the Deliver stage because effective online teaching requires considerably more than posting instructional materials in an electronic environment. It requires instructor presence, learner orientation, communication, interaction, facilitation, collaboration, timely feedback, technical support, and purposeful course management.

The revised 5D Model organizes its five stages into three integrated phases:

Phase I - Planning: Define Stage, Design Stage, and Develop Stage

Phase II - Teaching: Deliver Stage

Phase III - Evaluating: Determine Stage

A continuous process for effective learning

Although these phases provide a clear sequence, the 5D Model is neither strictly linear nor limited to a one-time design process. The output of each stage becomes an essential input for the next stage, but evidence discovered during any stage may require instructors to revisit and refine earlier decisions. Evaluation is therefore continuous. It occurs through review, testing, learner feedback, assessment evidence, course analytics, instructor reflection, and ongoing improvement.

The 5D Model can be applied to academic courses, professional-development programs, workforce training, certificate programs, and other formal or informal online learning experiences. Depending on the course's purpose and institutional context, instruction may be delivered through a learning management system (LMS), videoconferencing platform, mobile application, collaborative workspace, or an appropriate combination of digital technologies.

Regardless of the delivery environment, the ultimate measure of course effectiveness remains clear: the extent to which the targeted learners achieve the established learning outcomes and demonstrate their ability to apply the knowledge and skills acquired through the course. This principle is formally addressed in the Determine Stage, the final stage of the model, while evidence for evaluation is collected throughout the entire process.

This Guide translates the 5D Model into a practical, step-by-step implementation process. Each stage will include guiding questions, implementation steps, examples, practice activities, feedback criteria, templates, and an application-based assignment. By completing the five stages, instructors will gradually produce a comprehensive plan for developing, teaching, managing, and evaluating an online course.

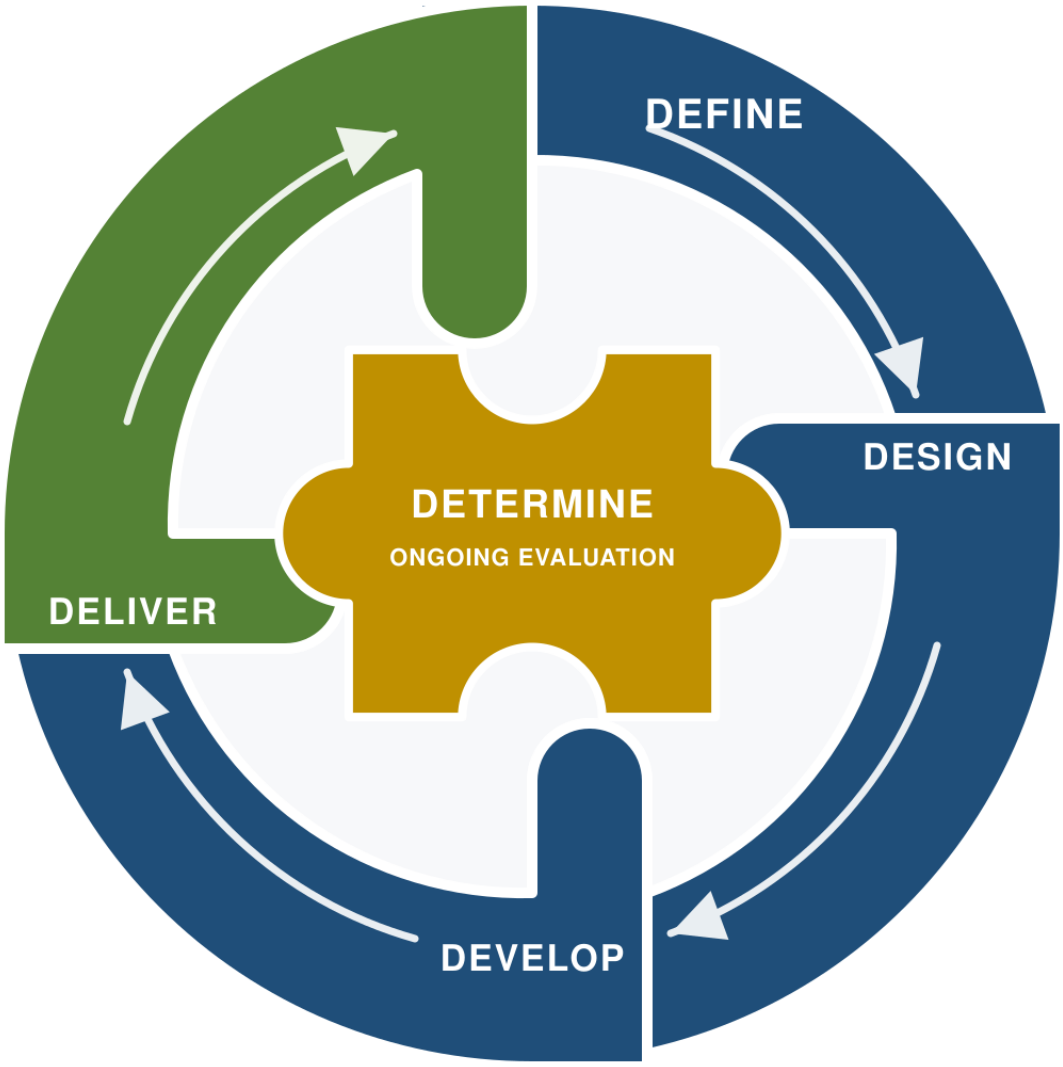
How to Use the Implementation Guide

This Guide may be used independently for self-training, as the principal resource for an instructor-led professional-development course, or as a working reference during the planning and revision of an actual online course. Readers are encouraged to select a course that they currently teach or intend to teach and apply each stage directly to that course.

The application assignments are cumulative. Work completed during the Define Stage will provide the foundation for the Design Stage; the design plan will direct the Develop Stage; the completed course will be prepared for the Deliver Stage; and evidence collected throughout the process will support the Determine Stage. Readers should retain and revise each stage deliverable as their complete Online Course Implementation Portfolio develops. Instructors are also encouraged to establish a course folder in which they can accumulate the application activities completed during the five stages and gather the instructional materials, media files, lectures, resources, and other course components they develop or select. By the end of the training, they will have an organized set of learner-ready materials that can be posted in the course website within a designated learning management system (LMS).

5D Model Overview

The figure below illustrates the 5D Model as a continuous and interrelated process involving five stages: the Define Stage, Design Stage, Develop Stage, Deliver Stage, and Determine Stage.



The first three stages constitute the Planning phase. The Deliver Stage constitutes the Teaching phase, and the Determine Stage constitutes the Evaluating phase. The stages operate as an integrated system: each stage contributes to the effectiveness of the others, and continuous evaluation may lead to improvement at any point.

Three phases. Five connected stages.

Summary of the work and principal deliverables

Phase	Stage	Work outline	Principal deliverable
I Planning	Define	Establish identity, need, learners, scope, goal, outcomes, prerequisites, environment, and support.	Course Definition Profile
I Planning	Design	Analyze tasks; write objectives; select instructional, interaction, assessment, participation, technology, access, and support strategies.	Course Design Blueprint
I Planning	Develop	Create, organize, build, test, and refine learning modules, materials, activities, assessments, the LMS, orientation, and support.	Course Development Package
II Teaching	Deliver	Launch and teach; orient learners; facilitate interaction; provide feedback and support; monitor progress; document evidence.	Course Delivery and Management Package
III Evaluating	Determine	Analyze achievement, experience, delivery, quality, and impact; decide what to retain or revise; document improvement priorities.	Course Evaluation and Improvement Package

About this handout

Prepared from the introduction and overview of Aisami's 5D Model for Planning, Teaching, and Evaluating Online Courses - A Step-by-Step Implementation Guide (September 2026). This introductory handout does not include the guide's stage-by-stage activities, templates, or assessments.

Explore GIDE: www.gideglobal.org