



BACKWARDS MAPPING

Visit the Learning Success Center
Belz Building (formerly Furst Hall), Room 412
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WHAT IS BACKWARDS MAPPING?

Backwards Mapping is a teaching strategy that starts with the end goal. The idea behind Backwards Mapping is to identify the assignment due date or test date and work backwards.

To use this approach, you will identify large course requirements and divide them into smaller, logical actions. For instance, the first action might be to read and understand the assignment's requirements.

STEP 1: DEFINE YOUR PROJECT/TEST AND ITS END GOAL

- **Project/Test Title:** *What is the name of your project/test?*
- **Project/Test Due Date:** *What is the project/test due?*
- **Project/Test Overview:** *Describe the purpose, goals and key objectives of your project/test. Include what it would look like to be successful at this task.*

STEP 2: BREAK DOWN THE FINAL GOAL INTO COMPONENT PARTS

List the main components that you will need to complete to reach your final goal. Each of these can be broken down further into smaller, more manageable, tasks. These should be specific steps that need to be completed to achieve each short-term milestone.

STEP 3: CONSIDER THE RESOURCES REQUIRED

Consider the resources you will need to complete this project or be adequately prepared for the test.

- **Do you need to do research? If so, what is the nature of that research?**
- **Do you need special materials, including specific technology?**
- **Will you need to involve other people? For example, if you are working on a group project, you must consider your group members' schedules as well.**

STEP 4: DEFINE AND DESCRIBE EACH COMPONENT

- **What is Component I?**
- **How much time will I need to complete Component I?**
- **What key tasks must I accomplish to complete Component I?**
- **What resources do I need to complete Component I?**

STEP 4: (Continued)

DEFINE AND DESCRIBE EACH COMPONENT

- **What is Component 2?**
- **How much time will I need to complete Component 2?**
- **What key tasks must I accomplish to complete Component 2?**
- **What resources do I need to complete Component 2?**

STEP 4: (Continued)

DEFINE AND DESCRIBE EACH COMPONENT

- **What is Component 3?**
- **How much time will I need to complete Component 3?**
- **What key tasks must I accomplish in order to complete Component 3?**
- **What resources do I need to complete Component 3?**

STEP 5: BE ACCOUNTABLE

Be accountable to yourself or someone else to make sure you stick to your timelines. We recommend regular check-ins with a learning specialist to review your progress.

- **Who will you check in with?**
- **How often will you check in?**
- **What will you review at each check-in?**

STEP 6: FINAL REVIEW

Once you have completed the project or taken the test, reflect on the entire process.

- **What went well?** *What strategies or approaches helped you succeed?*
- **What could have been improved?** *Consider the parts of the project or study strategies that didn't go as planned or areas for future improvement.*
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- **What did you learn?** *Identify important lessons that you can apply to future projects or test studying.*

ADDITIONAL NOTES

If You Would Like to Learn More About Backwards Mapping

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