Student Learning and Development (SLD)

The Student Learning and Development competency area focuses on how students learn. It puts development theories into practice. Because learning occurs in different environments, skills developed in this area allow professionals to assess learning outcomes and apply theory to enhance it. My skill level for this competency is intermediate, as I have both academic and applied experience.

In the Higher Education/Student Personnel curriculum, I understand why it is important to begin the program with courses such as EDHE 671: The College and the Student and EDHE 660: History of Higher Education. These courses lay the foundation for understanding the early college and how it has changed over time, as well as understanding how colleges impact student growth. For example, in EDHE 671, one of my assignments was a theory paper in which I reflected on theories such as Cognitive Theory, Nigrescence Theory, and Kohlberg's Theory of moral development. These theories provide student affairs professionals with an understanding of student development and the ability to provide proper support for optimal learning outcomes and retention of students.

As for applied experience, I gained an understanding of this competency through my involvement with FASTrack, a living learning community program. The program supports first-year students' transition to college life through academics and social experience through linked-classes, co-curricular classes, and living learning resident hall. It has allowed me to observe student development in real time.