**Critical Thinking**

**Definition**
Ability to look at situations from multiple perspectives. Breaks problems into component parts. Tendency or ability of individual to do something or create something new. Considers and organizes parts in a systematic way. Creates solutions to problems using novel methods and processes. Looks for underlying causes or thinks through the consequences of different courses of action.

**Key Words:** Actively and skillfully conceptualizing, Synthesizing, Reasoning

**Behavioral Indicator:**
1. Demonstrates and models the use of higher-order thinking skills
2. Creates solutions to problems using novel methods and processes.
3. Issues are viewed without any pre-set biases or limitations

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**PROFICIENCY LEVEL: Critical Thinking**

**Level I**
- Generates simple ideas
- Solutions are limited in scope
- May produce useful ideas or explanations for circumstances but lack in identifying or including cause and effect.
- Undertakes a complex task by breaking it down into manageable parts in a systemic, detailed way.

**Level II**
- Introduces new approaches that may have been tried elsewhere.
- Examines situations from multiple or different perspectives.
- Recognizes points for improvement and uses imagination to solve problems
- Critically compare different points of view
- Identifies linkage of actions to achieving outcomes.

**Level III**
- Applies formal methods and strategies to enhance creative thought
- Evaluates the quality of evidence and reasoning
- Effectively analyzes the situation, collects input to make informed decision
- Demonstrates critical thinking skills while considering the big picture and impact on results.
- Demonstrates in-depth knowledge of the holistic framework that component parts of a system can be understood in the context of relationships with others within the University rather than in isolation.