

# Creating opportunities for students to apply knowledge to real-world situations



1

This element of HIPs is built on the foundations of constructivist learning theory, which posits that students learn best when they construct their own knowledge through experiences rather than passively receiving information ([University at Buffalo](#)).

2

Project-based learning is one way to engage students in real-world problem-solving and may improve critical thinking, enhance communication skills, and help students practice useful career competencies ([Afzal & Tumpa, 2025](#)).

3

For a smaller-scale application opportunity, ask students to keep track of how and when they use skills and information from class in their daily lives.

4

In General Education at the University of Arizona, signature assignments are an ideal place to ask students to apply what they've learned to real-world situations. [Check out the Signature Assignment Repository](#) for assignment ideas.

5

When in doubt, encourage students to **use the foundational knowledge** they learn in your course to approach real-world problems, situations, or projects. If they'll encounter a task in the real world, help them practice it in your course!

