

Marcia's Identity Statuses: An Extension of Erikson's Identity Theory

Crisis refers to times during adolescence when the individual seems to be actively involved in choosing among alternative occupations and beliefs.

Commitment refers to the degree of personal investment the individual expresses in an occupation or belief.

-Marcia, 1967

Source: Muuss, Rolf E., "Marcia's Expansion of Erikson's Theory of Identity Formation." Theories of Adolescence. Ed. Rolf E. Muuss. 6th ed. McGraw-Hill, 1996. 260-270.

	<u>Has experienced crisis</u>	<u>Has not experienced a crisis</u>
Has made a commitment	<u>Identity achieved:</u> subject has experienced personal crises but has resolved them on his or her own terms. As a result of the resolution of these crises, the individual has made a personal commitment to an occupation, a religious belief, a personal value system and has resolved his or her attitude toward sexuality.	<u>Foreclosure:</u> subject has not yet experienced an identity crisis but has made commitments. However, these commitments are not the result of personal searching and exploring; rather, they are handed, ready-made, to the individual by others, frequently parents. These superimposed commitments are accepted without the individual's raising of fundamental and searching questions about them.
Has not made a commitment	<u>Moratorium:</u> subject is in an acute state of crisis: he or she is exploring and actively searching for values to eventually call his or her own. In other words, this individual is actively struggling to find his or her identity but has not yet made a commitment or has only developed very temporary kinds of commitments.	<u>Identity diffused:</u> subject has not yet experienced an identity crisis nor made any commitment to a vocation or a set of beliefs.