

# DEVELOPMENT OF COMMITMENT

James Marcia in 1966 developed four distinct positions in the process of identity development. The process and stages may be generalized to include any commitment.

	CRISIS	COMMITMENT
<b>IDENTITY ACHIEVEMENT</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>

Those who have undergone a period of crisis and as a consequence have developed firm commitments. Individuals who have experienced crises and moratorium, who have achieved ideological commitment are typically more independent, have realistic aspirations and subscribe to less authoritarian values.

<b>IDENTITY MORATORIUM</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>?</b>
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Individuals are currently in a state of crisis and are actively considering alternatives in an attempt to make a decision. This is a very important stage in the development of commitment and identity. In its absence, the individual is forced toward a predetermined commitment (foreclosure), or remains incapable of commitment (diffusion). Independence and low anxiety are characteristic in this phase of development.

<b>IDENTITY FORECLOSURE</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>X</b>
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Individuals have never experienced a crisis but have nevertheless made firm commitments to certain beliefs and values. An individual may have political, religious, and vocational decisions made for them by their parents. Adherence to authoritarian values (obedience, respect for authority, and leadership) is the most striking characteristics of this group.

<b>IDENTITY DIFFUSION</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>
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Individuals lack firm commitments and are not actively in crisis. This stage is typical of young people. Persons in college may exhibit a "playboy" mentality. These persons tend to be anxious, highly uncertain about themselves and characterized by low a self-concept.