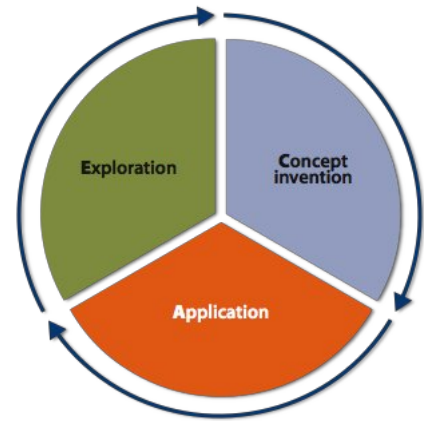


# What is POGIL?

POGIL is an acronym for **Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning**. In a typical POGIL classroom, students work in small teams with the instructor acting as a facilitator. The student teams use specially designed activities that generally follow a *learning cycle* paradigm. These activities are designed to have three key characteristics:

- They help teams to become self-managed and employ the instructor as a facilitator of learning rather than a source of information.
- They guide students through an exploration to invent (construct) their own understanding.
- They use discipline specific content to facilitate the development of important *process skills*, including higher-level thinking and the ability to learn and to apply knowledge in new contexts.



The POGIL approach has two broad aims: to develop content mastery through student construction of their own understanding, and to develop and improve important learning skills such as information processing, communication, critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork, and metacognition.

## Key Elements of the POGIL Pedagogy

**A POGIL classroom consists of students working in small, self-managed teams on specially designed guided inquiry materials.** These materials supply students with data or information to interpret, followed by guiding questions designed to lead them toward formulation of their own conclusions—essentially a recapitulation of the scientific method.

**POGIL focuses on developing process skills in addition to mastering course content.** POGIL is an interactive process of refining one's understanding and developing one's skills for the workplace as a component of the student learning process. The ability to engage in these processes is crucial for students to succeed in active learning environments.

**Instruction in a POGIL classroom is student-centered. The instructor serves primarily as a facilitator of student learning.** In a POGIL classroom, the instructor observes and addresses individual, team, and classroom-wide needs. This inquiry-based team environment energizes students and provides instructors with instant and constant feedback about what their students understand and misunderstand.

<https://pogil.org/>