Universal Design for Learning

A framework for good teaching, a model for student success

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Universal Design for Learning

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is a set of principles and techniques for teaching, creating inclusive classroom instruction and accessible course materials.

Universal Design (UD)

- Build in accessibility from the start
- Curb cuts in city streets
- Ramps and automatic door openers
- TV closed captions
- Ergonomic kitchen utensils
- Everyone benefits from a more flexible, user-friendly environment
Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

- Inclusive pedagogy
- UDL applies to both teaching and technology

Who are college students today?

- Ethnicity & Culture
- Gender
- Nontraditional
- ESL/Native language
- Learning/Cognitive Styles
- Disabilities

They are diverse
What is your good name, sir?
A. Full name
B. Last name
C. Nickname or pet name

Learning Styles

1. Visual
   a. Visual-Linguistic (reading and writing)
   b. Visual-Spatial (graphs and pictures)
2. Auditory (listening)
3. Kinesthetic (touching and moving)
**Disabilities**

- Mobility Impairments
- Blindness/Visual Impairments
- Deafness/Hearing Impairments
- Learning Disabilities
- Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD/ADHD)
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Mental Illness

**Disabilities in Higher Education**

- Nationally, 11.3% of undergraduates report some type of disability\(^1\)
- At Colorado State University\(^2\)
  - 9%–11% report a disability
  - Non-apparent disabilities are by far the largest proportion and growing
  - Even among students who say they have a disability, few seek accommodations

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\(^2\)Schultz, Reiner & Spencer, Journal of Postsecondary Education and Disability (Feb. 2011)
Universal Design for Learning: 3 Principles

1. Instructors represent information and concepts in multiple ways (and in a variety of formats).
2. Students are given multiple ways to express their comprehension and mastery of a topic.
3. Students engage with new ideas and information in multiple ways.

Representation

Alternative Representations*

- Lecture: Its strengths and weaknesses
- Video/Audio podcasts
- Shared note taking

A Tale of Two Documents:
The Technical Side of UDL

What makes a document Universally Designed?
- Searchability
- Copy and Paste
- Bookmarks or an Interactive Table of Contents
- Text to Speech capability
- Accessibility
  - Keyboard access, alternative to images, etc.

UDL Tech Tutorials
- Microsoft Word
  - Styles and Headings
  - Images
- PowerPoint
- Adobe PDF
- HTML
- E-Text

http://accessproject.colostate.edu
Expression

Engagement

CSU Psychology Undergraduates: What helps you learn?

- It helps me learn when the instructor...
  - presents information in multiple formats
  - actively engages students in learning
  - relates key concepts to the larger objectives of the course
  - begins class with an outline
  - summarizes key points
  - highlights key points of instructional videos
CSU Psychology Undergraduates: What engages you?

- Strategies that increase engagement
  - Clicker questions
  - Asks questions
  - Videos
  - Partner/group discussion and activities
  - In-class mini writing assignments

UDL Framework

Engage
Express
Represent

References


Thank you!