Classroom Diversity

At Colorado State University, we welcome diversity in all its forms:

- Age
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Native language
- Life experiences
- Disabilities
- Learning styles

How can we reach and engage an increasingly diverse population of students?
Universal Design for Learning (UDL) acknowledges the diversity evident in today’s classrooms, including students with different life experiences, language backgrounds, learning styles, abilities and disabilities.

No single teaching approach is best for all students. Thus, UDL recommends a variety of approaches:

1. Present information in multiple ways and in a variety of formats—short lectures followed by discussion and hands-on activities, problem-based learning, group activities, etc.

2. Get students actively engaged. In the classroom, incorporate technologies like i>Clickers into your lectures. Outside of class, get students involved in community-based service learning experiences to emphasize the real-world implications of the academic curriculum.

3. Encourage students to express their comprehension in multiple ways. Where possible, look beyond standard exams to include in-class and online presentations and performances.
Accessible Course Materials

Following UDL practices, course materials become more accessible using a variety of computer and web technologies. Instructors are encouraged to:

- Distribute documents in multiple electronic formats (HTML, RTF, PDF, etc.)
- Check electronic documents for compliance with web standards and accessibility guidelines
- Adopt instructional technologies that offer flexible methods of communication and prompt feedback
- Allow students to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they learn in your classes using multimedia technologies.

Tips and Tutorials

More information available at http://accessproject.colostate.edu/
The UDL Model

A model for good practice, Universal Design for Learning is a set of principles and techniques for creating inclusive classroom instruction and accessible course materials.

**Three broad recommendations:**

1. *Present* information and concepts in multiple ways and in a variety of formats.

2. Allow students multiple ways to *express* their comprehension and mastery of a topic.

3. Encourage students to *engage* with new ideas and information in multiple ways.