Universal Design for Learning

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PEDAGOGY

Universal design for learning (UDL) is a pedagogical framework that aims to remove the largest possible number of barriers to learning by presenting content, assessing progress, and encouraging engagement in multiple ways, to ensure equitable access for learners regardless of their needs.

PURPOSE

UDL helps to create an inclusive learning experience and foster an engaging environment that encourages mastery of course material.

PROCEDURE

» Learn more about UDL principles and how they are implemented in higher education.

» Locate partners on your campus: instructional designers, disability support services, technology staff, and others.

» Identify an activity or a course to design/redesign using the UDL framework.

» Identify the core competencies that your course or activity should teach. How flexible can you be about the path students take to these competencies?

» During the redesign process, focus on removing barriers:
  » to students understanding the course content
  » to communication and expression
  » to student engagement

» Gather feedback, assess learning, and revise as needed.

CONSIDERATIONS

Technology can help to remove barriers to learning, but make sure the tools you incorporate are well supported and accessible to all. Consult with local technology staff. UDL-informed instructional design is a time-consuming but worthwhile process.

BEGINNER

Find out more at » nwacco.org/card/udlforlearning