Universal Design for Learning

UDL…the What

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is a research-based strategy that provides flexibility in the classroom. In a UDL classroom students are provided access to the curriculum along with different ways to demonstrate their knowledge through the use of built-in curriculum scaffolds. Students are provided different means to become motivated with a variety of relevant activities (Multiple Means of Engagement). Information is provided in more than one format (Multiple Means of Representation). Multiple ways are presented to allow the student to interact with the curriculum (Multiple Means of Action and Expression).

More About UDL

CAST
cast.org

National Center on Universal Design for Learning
udlcenter.org

UDL Resource
udlresource.com

PATINS
patinsproject.org

Contact a PATINS/ICAM staff member for assistance.
UDL…the Why
Think for a moment of a world where shoes are only made in one size, 8.5. Everyone, no matter of foot size, has to wear that size shoe. You can easily imagine the difficulty for those who don’t wear an 8.5 shoe. Walking, jogging, skiing, etc would all become difficult and nearly impossible for some to successfully complete. The pathway to success includes the elimination of barriers and the offering of varying shoe sizes. Curricula also should not be one size fits all. The more scaffolds, choice, and flexibility the curricula contains, the more successful the student will become.

UDL…FAQs
Is UDL mentioned in ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act)? UDL is referenced often in ESSA as a tool to use with all students. In fact for the first time, the nation’s general K-12 education law defines and endorses UDL.

Is UDL an Evidenced-based Practice? UDL is rich in research conducted over the years.

Does UDL replace the need for Assistive Technology? There will always be a need for some students to have highly specialized tools in order to access the curriculum.

Where do I start with UDL? Change is always difficult. Don’t overwhelm the students or yourself. Start slowly and gradually introduce students to the principles of UDL.

Does UDL require a ‘heavy’ technology investment to be implemented successfully? No. UDL can actually be successfully implemented ‘on a dime’. In fact, you probably have all the resources you need at your fingertips already.

CREATING A UDL LESSON PLAN
UDL principles serve as the framework for lesson plan design in order to maximize student learning.

When creating a universally designed lesson plan, consider the learning environment as well as how variability affects the accessibility and flexibility of the plan. It is important to remember the principles of UDL…Multiple Means of Engagement, Multiple Means of Representation, and Multiple Means of Action & Expression.