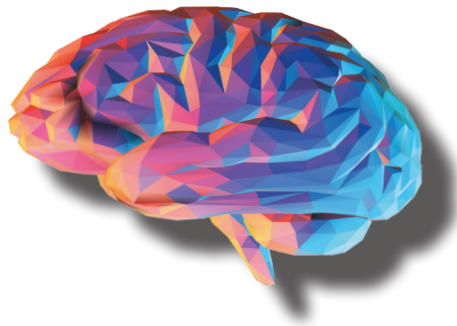


# Universal Design for Learning (UDL)



## 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 allowing students to choose how they interact with the curriculum (**Multiple Means of Representation**). Students are offered choices for showing what they know and how they have achieved their goals (**Multiple Means of Action and Expression**).

### The Why of Learning

#### Multiple Means of Engagement

Purposeful, motivated learners

### The What of Learning

#### Multiple Means of Representation

Resourceful, knowledgeable learners

### The How of Learning

#### Multiple Means of Action & Expression

Strategic, goal-directed learners

## More About UDL

**UDL Guidelines**  
[udlguidelines.cast.org](http://udlguidelines.cast.org)



**PATINS Project**  
[patinsproject.org](http://patinsproject.org)

Contact a PATINS or ICAM staff member for assistance.



**View PATINS' Fact Sheets**  
[patinsproject.org/downloads](http://patinsproject.org/downloads)



# UDL...the Why

Think for a moment of a world where shoes are only made in one size, 8.5. Everyone, no matter their 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 students will become.

## UDL...FAQs

### Is UDL mentioned in ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act)?

Yes. 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 Evidence-based Practice?

Yes. UDL is rich in research conducted over the years.

### Does UDL replace the need for Assistive Technology?

No. 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.



**PATINS Project UDL Lesson Creator Forms:** [patinsproject.org/resources/udl](https://patinsproject.org/resources/udl)