



Universal Design Of Instruction: Diverse Student Populations

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“ In the long run, It is more efficient and cost effective to consider and address the diverse range of user needs during the design process, rather than as an adaptation after the fact” (L. Schleff, Western Washington University)

Introduction

- ❖ Universal Design (UD)
- ❖ “Curb-cut”
- ❖ “e-curb cut”
- ❖ UD applied for instruction (UDI) and delivery of instruction



What is Universal Design of Instruction?

- ❖ A practice of inclusive instruction
- ❖ Broad range of learners
- ❖ Responsive to diverse learners
- ❖ Consider the diversities



Why Should Faculty Implement UDI?

- ❖ Best educational approach for students with diverse needs
- ❖ Facilitates delivery of knowledge to all students
- ❖ Use of technology is effective in delivering instruction
- ❖ Saves instructors extra time for preparations of specific lectures
- ❖ Allows faculties to review important points



The Population of Students in Quebec in the 21st Century

- ❖ % of students in Quebec
- ❖ % of students Francophone
- ❖ % of students Anglo
- ❖ % of students ethnics languages
- ❖ % of students visible minority
- ❖ % of students with disabilities
- ❖ % Other special needs
 - ❖ % of students by gender
 - ❖ % of students by age

Benefits of UDI for Students

- ❖ In various ways, students can:
 - ❖ Present what they have learnt
 - ❖ Express themselves
 - ❖ Engage with professors

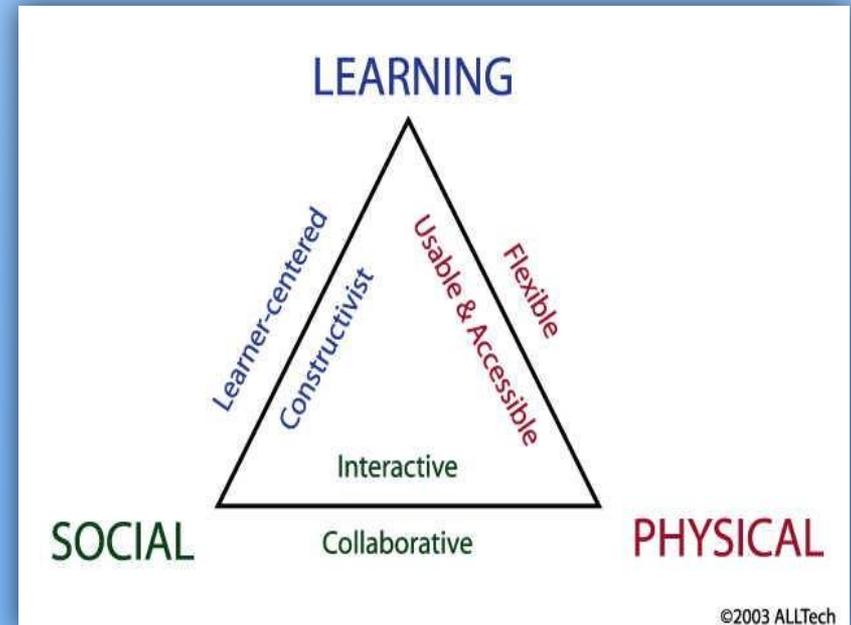


How Do You Deliver UDI?

- ❖ multiple formats of information → meet the needs of diverse learners
- ❖ multiple methods of instruction → demonstrates knowledge
- ❖ engage students → based on learning style and abilities
- ❖ support for inclusive instruction for all students

Principles of UDI

1. Equitable Use
2. Flexible Use
3. Simple and Intuitive Use
4. Perceptible information
5. Tolerance for Error
6. Low Physical Effort
7. Size and Space for Approach and Use
8. Community of Learners
9. Instructional Climate



1. Equitable Use

Principle

- ❖ The design does not disadvantage or stigmatize any group of users

Examples

- ❖ Provide accessible technologies for all students
- ❖ Use course materials that are available in different formats



2. Flexible Use

Principle

- ❖ The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities



Examples

- ❖ Have flexible office hours
- ❖ Allow students to submit their work in different formats
- ❖ Give diverse examples during lectures

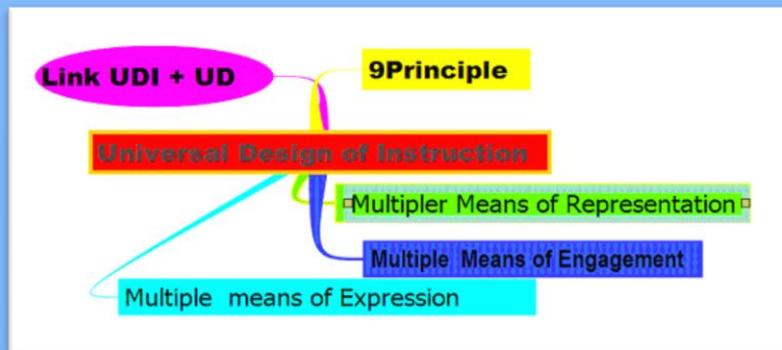
3. Simple and Intuitive Use

Principle

- ❖ Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level

Examples

- ❖ Use multiple types of testing
- ❖ Use plain language to explain new concepts
- ❖ Use mind-mapping software



4. Perceptible Information

Principle

- ❖ The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities



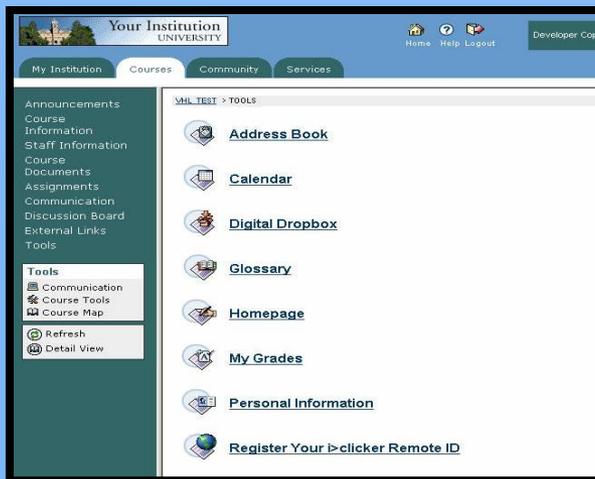
Examples

- ❖ Deliver lectures verbally and visually
- ❖ Use videos with captions
- ❖ Highlight critical features of lectures

5. Tolerance for Error

Principle

- ❖ The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions



Examples

- ❖ Organize course management system in a way that benefits all
- ❖ Give clear instructions about due dates

6. Low Physical Effort

Principle

- ❖ The design can be used efficiently and comfortably, and with a minimum of fatigue



Examples

- ❖ Allow all students to use technology to take notes
- ❖ Set up interval options for large projects

7. Size and Space for Approach and Use

Principle

- ❖ Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use, regardless of the user's body size, posture, or mobility



Examples

- ❖ Accessible courses management system
- ❖ Space in classroom for guide dogs, or sign language interpreters, etc.

8. A Community of Learners

Principle

- ❖ The instructional environment promotes interaction and communication among students and between students and faculty

Examples

- ❖ Communicate directly with students with diverse needs
- ❖ Participate with students in awareness activities



Tools to Implement UDI

- ❖ Use organizational software
- ❖ Use interactive methods
- ❖ Explain theories with concrete examples
- ❖ Use virtual classrooms



Questions

- ❖ What are some of the challenges you face in your Cégep
- ❖ How can UDI assist you in facing these challenges?



Questions

- ❖ In what way does UDI challenge the “one size fits all approach” to curriculum delivery?



For More Information

Learn more: Adaptech Research Network
Réseau de Recherche Adaptech

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