



Accommodations through UDL

Professional Learning Board integrated self-study professional development courses are conveniently available 24 x 7 to teacher-learners. Each self-study PD course includes:

- Course content delivered in an interactive online textbook,
- Practical suggestions that can be implemented immediately,
- Quiz
- Printable certificate of completion
- Lifetime access



“Universal Design for Learning is a research-based approach to accommodating every learner.”

Teaching each and every student effectively is never easy. It is next to impossible to find a classroom full of students with the same needs, learning levels and abilities. Teachers are faced with the challenge of teaching a diverse group the same lesson and ensuring that they all learn in the process.

This course is designed to present teachers with the Universal Design of Learning (UDL) framework, which makes teaching ALL students a very real possibility. The framework builds on research findings that show how a single teaching approach has very limited results on student learning, highlighting the need for a new curricular approach. Here a learner's level of recognition, strategic, and affective networks are all taken into account to determine the best way to teach them.

The course is centered around exploring practical strategies that can be used to add a much needed element of flexibility in teaching presentation, student expression and meaningful engagement and upholding learning as the primary focus.

Standards:

This course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.



Course Outline:

Lesson 1: Basics of Universal Design of Learning

Understanding the meaning and need for a universal design of learning (UDL) to meet both teacher and student needs

Designing comprehensive curriculum and effective assessments according to the UDL framework
Exploring the basic principles of UDL and their implementation in the planning process and in the classroom

Using UDL to meet the varied needs of students by differentiated instruction

Lesson 2: Flexible Methods of Presentation

Understanding possible barriers to optimal student learning and strategies to overcome them

Audio-visual and textual strategies of providing multiple options for perception

Using variety in language, mathematical expressions and symbols in the effective representation of information

Essential strategies in ensuring successful comprehension, maximum transfer and generalization of learning

Lesson 3: Flexible Methods of Expression

Exploring effective strategies to successfully engage and challenge students with varying levels of skill and areas of interest

Ensuring that the expected physical engagement with the learning environment does not pose barriers for differently-abled students

Offering alternatives for students to express themselves, and integrating multiple modes of expression into each lesson

Using the UDL framework to scaffold the skills needed to demonstrate students' executive functioning

Lesson 4: Flexible Options for Engagement

Examining the third principle of the UDL - providing multiple opportunities so all students are engaged in the classroom.

Strategies to create a positive classroom environment, captivate students' interest while giving them choice and autonomy

Ensuring that the primary goal is enhanced student learning, but eliminating distractions and irrelevant activities

Promoting students' self-regulation by teaching them personal coping skills, self-assessment and reflection techniques