



# The Nine Principles of UDI©

Universal Design for Instruction (UDI) is an approach to teaching that consists of the proactive design and use of inclusive instructional strategies that benefit a broad range of learners including students with disabilities. The nine Principles of UDI© provide a framework for college faculty to use when designing or revising instruction to be responsive to diverse student learners and to minimize the need for "special" accommodations and retrofitted changes to the learning environment. UDI operates on the premise that the planning and delivery of instruction, as well as the evaluation of learning can incorporate inclusive attributes that embrace diversity in learners without compromising academic standards.

## *Principle*

## *Definition*

### **1. Equitable use**

Instruction is designed to be useful to and accessible by people with diverse abilities. Provide the same means of use for all students; identical whenever possible, equivalent when not.

### **2. Flexibility in use**

Instruction is designed to accommodate a wide range of individual abilities. Provide choice in methods of use.

### **3. Simple and intuitive**

Instruction is designed in a straightforward and predictable manner, regardless of the student's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level. Eliminate unnecessary complexity

### **4. Perceptible information**

Instruction is designed so that necessary information is communicated effectively to the student, regardless of ambient conditions or the student's sensory abilities.

### **5. Tolerance for error**

Instruction anticipates variation in individual student learning pace and prerequisite skills.

### **6. Low physical effort**

Instruction is designed to minimize nonessential physical effort in order to allow maximum attention to learning.

Note: This principle does not apply when physical effort is integral to essential requirements of a course.

### **7. Size and space for approach and use**

Instruction is designed with consideration for appropriate size and space for approach, reach, manipulations, and use regardless of a student's body size, posture, mobility, and communication needs.

### **8. A community of learners**

The instructional environment promotes interaction and communication among students and between students and faculty.

## 9. Instructional climate

Instruction is designed to be welcoming and inclusive. High expectations are espoused for all students.

### Adapted From:

Principles of Universal Design for Instruction, by S. S. Scott, J.M. McGuire, & S.F. Shaw. Storrs: University of Connecticut, Center on Postsecondary Education and Disability. Copyright 2001.

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[1] <http://udi.uconn.edu/index.php?q=content/examples-udi-online-and-blended-courses>