

What is UDL?

Universal Design for Learning

is a set of principles for [curriculum](#) development that give all individuals equal opportunities to learn.

UDL provides a blueprint for creating instructional goals, methods, materials, and assessments that work for everyone--not a single, one-size-fits-all solution but rather flexible approaches that can be customized and adjusted for individual needs.

Why is UDL necessary?

Individuals bring a huge variety of skills, needs, and interests to learning. Neuroscience reveals that these differences are as varied and unique as our DNA or fingerprints. Three primary brain networks come into play:

Universal Design for Learning

Recognition Networks

The "what" of learning



How we gather facts and categorize what we see, hear, and read. Identifying letters, words, or an author's style are recognition tasks.



Present information and content in different ways

**More ways to provide
Multiple Means of
Representation**

Strategic Networks

The "how" of learning



Planning and performing tasks. How we organize and express our ideas. Writing an essay or solving a math problem are strategic tasks.



Differentiate the ways that students can express what they know

**More ways to provide
Multiple Means of Action and
Expression**

Affective Networks

The "why" of learning



How learners get engaged and stay motivated. How they are challenged, excited, or interested. These are affective dimensions.



Stimulate interest and motivation for learning

**More ways to provide
Multiple Means of
Engagement**

Source: CAST - What is UDL? (<http://www.cast.org/research/udl>)