

Universal Design for Learning

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Universal Design for Learning

Presentation goals today:

- What is neurodiversity?
- What Universal Access Design for Learning is, and how can ULD remove roadblocks to success for all students?
- When students who struggle with access might not meet the requirements for formal accommodations
- What are some easily accessed UDL resources that can be used to support all students in your courses?



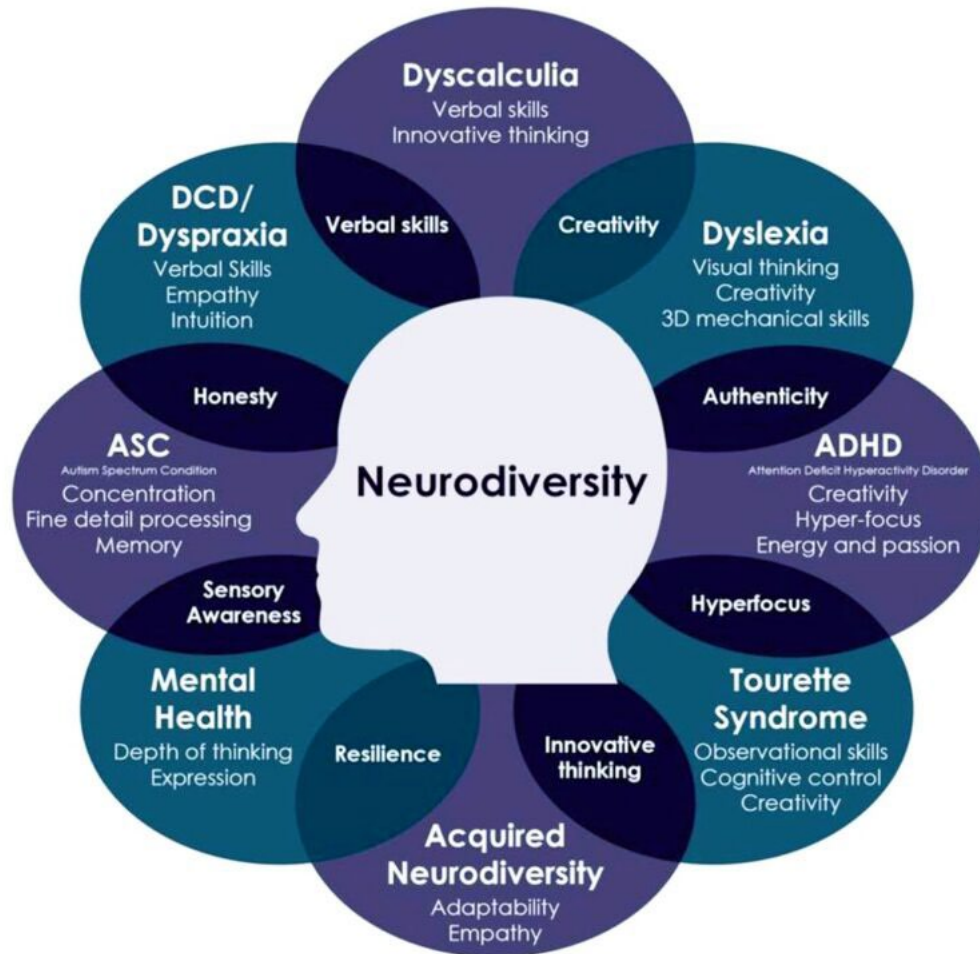
What is Neurodiversity?



[video](#)



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What is Universal Design for Learning?

“Universal design for learning is a framework to improve and optimize teaching and learning for all students based on the scientific insights to how students learn. (CAST, 2018)”

- Provides flexibility in the ways information is presented, students are engaged, and students respond or demonstrate knowledge and skills
- Reduces barriers in instruction, provides appropriate accommodations, supports, and challenges, and maintains high achievement expectations for all students, including students with disabilities and students who are limited English proficient. (HEOA, 2008)



Access vs Accommodation

Access is what we should expect to be ready for us without asking or planning ahead.

- Width of doorways
- Elevators and ramps
- Curb cutouts
- Housing arrangements
- Digital content
- Machine generate captions
- Color contrast

Accommodations are specific and individualized for one community member.

- Sign language interpreters/real time captioning services
- Single residence hall
- Extended time on exams/assignments
- Reasonable flexibility
- Mobility assistance
- Human generated captions



Barriers for access in reading materials

- Pictures of articles verse scanning. Scans can be OCR (optical character recognition) in [Adobe \(Acrobat Pro\)](#)
- Order accessible text books and other materials
- Kindle books – look for Product Details. Locate the Text-to-speech field. If it says Enabled it may work. If NOT ENABLED, it will likely not work
- Don't rely on Emojis for student feedback
- [Open Educational Resources](#)

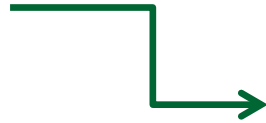


What might a UA designed document or slide look like?

- Simple font (18 point or bigger)
- High Contrast Color Scheme
- Bullet point list
- Color not the only differentiating feature
- Appropriately Sized Text
- Left-Justified text
- Captions/Alt Text for images
- Clear indication of what will pop up if a link is clicked.



Notice that some UD fixes work for multiple populations



Designing for users with anxiety



Do...

give users enough time to complete an action



explain what will happen after completing a service



make important information clear



give users the support they need to complete a service



let users check their answers before they submit them



Don't...

rush users or set impractical time limits



leave users confused about next steps or timeframes



leave users uncertain about the consequences of their actions



make support or help hard to access



leave users questioning what answers they gave



Ease of Access in Windows

- Increase Mouse Pointer
 - Ease of Access \Rightarrow Mouse pointer \Rightarrow Change pointer size
 - Can also change color
- Color filters
 - Ease of Access \Rightarrow Turn on color filter \Rightarrow Inverted
- Other features
 - Narrator – text to speech ([add text to speech to Word](#))
 - Speech – speech to text ([instructions](#))
 - Closed captions



Literature and recent research

- Journal of Postsecondary Education and Disability, 2024
 - Learning From the Pandemic: Redesigning with Universal Design for Learning to Enhance Scientific Skills
 - Designing for Diversity and Inclusion: UDL-Based Strategies for College Courses
- <http://www.cast.org/impact/universal-design-for-learning-udl>
- <https://www.washington.edu/doit/>



Our Existing Resources:

- The Canvas Accessibility Checker
- Closed Captioning: YouTube, Kaltura and others.
- CATL & SAS
- UWGB Libraries and [Accessibility](#)
- EDI Faculty Mentor for UAD
- Office 365 Features



Universal Design Principles for Learning
impact **EVERYONE**... not just our
students!!!



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QUESTIONS?

Small changes making big differences!!!

THANK YOU



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