Universal Learning Design: Creating Inclusive Online Education
Course Syllabus

Course Description

This course is specifically designed for K-12 educators working in remote learning environments who seek to enhance student success by incorporating Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles and technology into their instruction. Recognizing the challenges and diversity of learners in remote settings, this course addresses the gap in available resources by offering eight comprehensive learning modules. These modules will guide educators in understanding and applying UDL strategies to create more inclusive and effective remote classrooms. By the end of the course, participants will be equipped with practical tools and techniques to support the diverse needs of their students, ultimately increasing engagement and achievement in the remote learning environment.

This course enhances classroom teaching effectiveness and supports improved student outcomes by introducing new knowledge in applying Universal Design for Learning principles and technology to create inclusive, accessible, and engaging remote learning experiences for diverse K–12 students.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Understand the importance of incorporating the universal design for learning to make content more accessible for diverse populations of learners.
2. Identify ways of modifying course materials to increase student accessibility using multiple means of representation.
3. Identify a variety of diverse instructional delivery methods, effectively addressing varied learning needs within any learning environment.
4. Identify and describe specific strategies for enabling students to express their understanding through various methods and demonstrate how these strategies can be effectively incorporated into a learning environment.
5. Design assessments that accommodate various learning styles, ensuring that all students have equitable opportunities to demonstrate their understanding.
6. Identify and integrate appropriate assistive technologies to support diverse learners in any learning environment.
7. Understand how to create flexible learning pathways that allow students to progress through the course content at their own pace, accommodating individual learning needs and preferences.
8. Create lesson plans that demonstrate diverse instructional delivery methods, effectively addressing varied learning needs within any learning environment.

Modules

- Module 1: Designing course materials for accessibility (UDL framework), Quiz 1
- Module 2: Elevating the user experience for more success through multiple means of representation (Representation), Quiz 2
- Module 3: Creating an engaging user experience that fosters diverse learners (Engagement), Quiz 3
- Module 4: Creating multiple ways of students engagement and self agency in responding (Action), Quiz 4
- Module 5: Assessing Student Understanding through Diverse Methods (Assessment), Quiz 5
- Module 6: Incorporating Assistive Technology to Enhance Learning (Technology Integration), Quiz 6
- Module 7: Developing Flexible Learning Pathways (Personalization), Quiz 7
- Module 8: Reflecting on course design to make sure lessons and activities cater to UDL checklist (Instructional Reflection), Quiz 8

Grading:

Each quiz must be passed at an 80% or higher (three attempts allowed).

Format

This is a self-paced, asynchronous (no required live meetings) course. Throughout the PD course, you will find it helpful to take notes along the way to assist with the quizzes. Within each module, you will find reflection assessments that are not graded but will help in your journey through the course. There is an interactive forum in the course to help you connect with peers and instructors, share ideas, and collaborate on best practices throughout your learning journey.