

# Incorporating Universal Design for Learning within Assessment

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SYDNEY**



# Agenda

- Current Climate at University of Sydney
- UDL Principles
- UDL in Assessment
- Implementation at University of Sydney
- Next Steps for University of Sydney

# Current Climate at USYD

Current Practice	Universal Design for Learning
Reactive	Proactive
Evaluates the student	Evaluates environment, curriculum, culture
Cause/Effect	Cause/Effect Intentional
Retrofits instruction	Designs instruction prior to the arrival of the students

# Big Picture Changes at the University

- Faculty Restructure
- New learning Management system (CANVAS)
- Significant Curriculum Reform - Including the development of university wide rubrics, learning outcomes for curriculum components, defining graduate qualities and changes to assessment plans.
- The Curriculum Reform will have a significant & direct impact on how students access their study in the future

# Definition of Universal Design for Learning

## Universal Design for Learning:

- Is a set of principles for curriculum development that give all individuals equal opportunities to learn.
- Is intended to increase access to learning by reducing physical, cognitive, intellectual, and organisational barriers to learning.
- Provides a blueprint for creating and implementing flexible learning environments, goals, pedagogies, materials, and assessments that accommodate learner differences.

[www.cast.org](http://www.cast.org)

# Provide Multiple Means of Engagement

Provide options for recruiting interest

Provide options for sustaining effort and persistence

Provide options for self regulation



Purposeful, motivated learners

# Provide Multiple Means of Representation

Provide options for perception

Provide options for language, mathematical expressions and symbols

Provide options for comprehension



Resourceful, knowledgeable learners

# Provide Multiple Means of Action & Expression

Provide options for physical action

Provide options for expression and communication

Provide options for executive function



Strategic, goal-directed learners



## UDL within Assessment

The goal of applying UDL to assessment is to design and develop assessment which allows participation and success for all students.

- Uses the same assessment outcome targets for all students, however provides benefits in workload flexibility and learning management tools for students.
- Provides equivalence in learning via multiple means of demonstrating that learning.
- Reduces staff workload through minimising the need for in semester bespoke adjustments for disability conditions.

# Tips for Planning Assessments using UDL

Provide regular feedback

- Formative assessments
  - Involve learners in their learning process using assessment data
  - Peer feedback
  - Allow students to submit sections of a large project
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- Support learner variability through flexible assessments
  - Clear expectations around assessments and learning outcomes
  - Eliminate unnecessary barriers in assessment
  - Provide sample or previous exams

# Implementation of Universal Design for Learning at University of Sydney

- Collaboration with Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
- Collaboration with the Discipline of Rehabilitation Counselling
- Faculty Disability Liaison Forums

# Canvas (Learning Management System)

Resources - Canvas Semolina Template



## Welcome to DEMO1001

You can use this as the landing page of your unit site on Canvas. It's a great opportunity to write a short, welcoming message to your students that will greet them when they initially land in your site. Consider writing briefly about what the unit is about, why you're excited to teach it, how it's relevant to their lives, and what you'll be doing together. Edit the menu at the top by changing the links, customising the icons, etc. Feel free to change the banner image as well. The rest of this page is just filler text that you should replace with your welcoming message and anything else.



# Digital/Online Material

## Marketing & communications

- > Our brand +
- > Tools & templates +
- > Sponsorship
- > Writing and editing +
- > Internal communications +
- > Media advice
- > Social media
- > Web and digital work +
- > Web program +
- > **Web and digital accessibility** -
  - > Accessible Canvas
  - > Accessible headings
  - > Accessible images (alt text)
  - > Accessible InDesign
  - > Accessible PDFs
  - > Accessible PowerPoint
  - > Accessible tables

## Web and digital accessibility



- [What is accessibility?](#)
- [Why be accessible?](#)
- [How do we become accessible?](#)
- [Resources](#)

## Related articles

- [Why think about accessibility](#) ↗ ?

## Digital Accessibility Implementation Plan

The University has developed a Digital Accessibility Implementation Plan (DAIP), which will create a more inclusive digital environment for staff, students and visitors with disability.

- [Introducing the Digital Accessibility Implementation Plan](#)
- Read the [condensed Digital Accessibility Implementation Plan](#) (52KB PDF)
- Read the [full Digital Accessibility Implementation Plan](#) 📄 (375KB PDF)

## Learn more about accessibility

## Next Steps

- Working with the Assessment Working Group, Education Innovation Team and Academic Board to ensure top down approach
- University wide Education/Training
- Resources
- Faculty Workshops
- Key priority within the new Disability Action Plan



# UDL Video



# Questions?