



STRATEGIES FOR INCORPORATING UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING (UDL) IN THE ONLINE CLASSROOM

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What is Universal Design for Learning?

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The Universal Design Center defines UDL as;

a set of principles for that guides development of curriculum so that all individuals are given 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

(<http://www.udlcenter.org/aboutudl/whatisudl>)

UDL Principles

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The “What” of Learning
Multiple Means of Representation

A large, light-colored downward-pointing arrow with a drop shadow, indicating a flow from the first principle to the second.

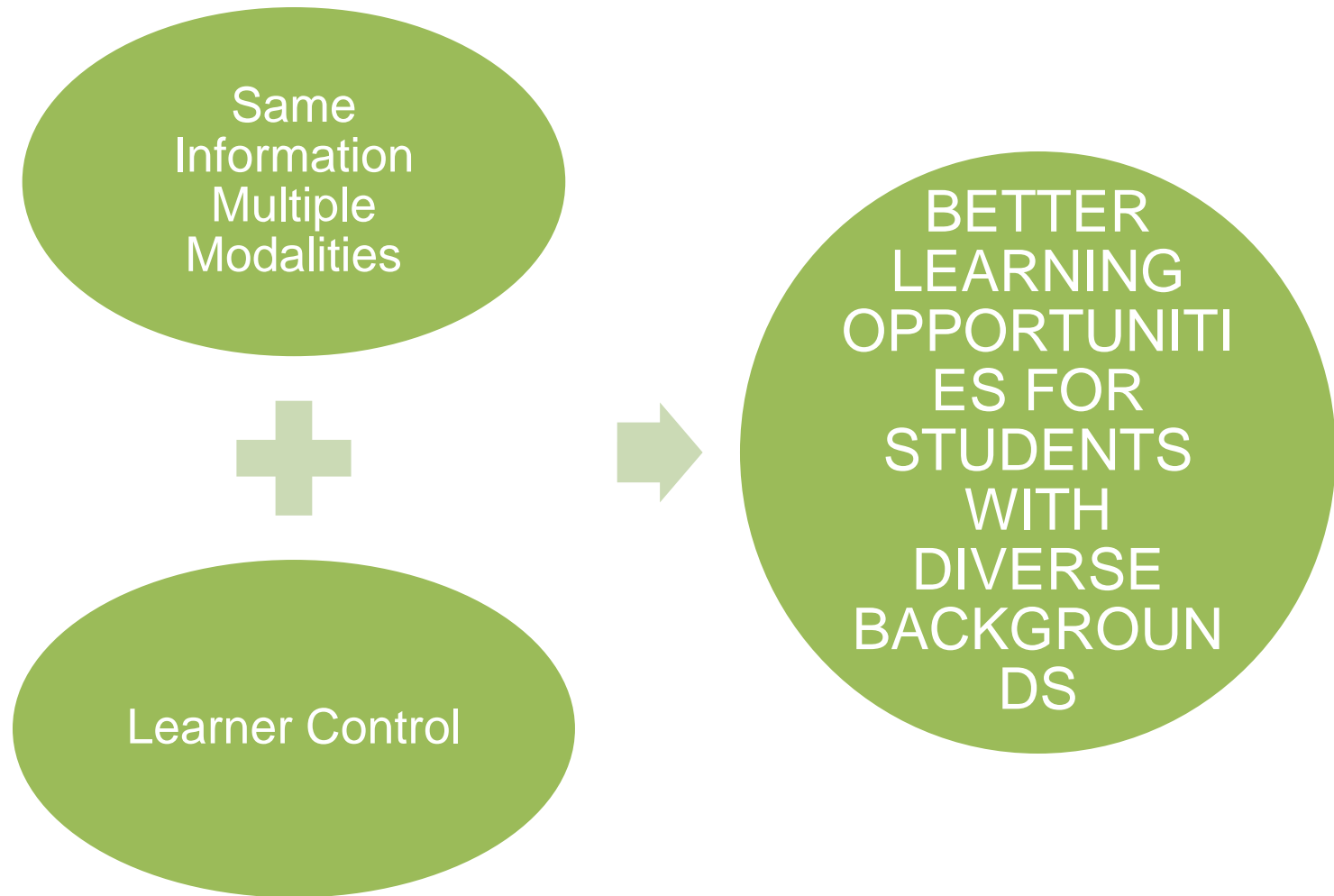
The “Why” of Learning
Multiple Means of Expression &
Representation

A large, light-colored downward-pointing arrow with a drop shadow, indicating a flow from the second principle to the third.

The “How” of Learning
Multiple Means of Action &
Engagement

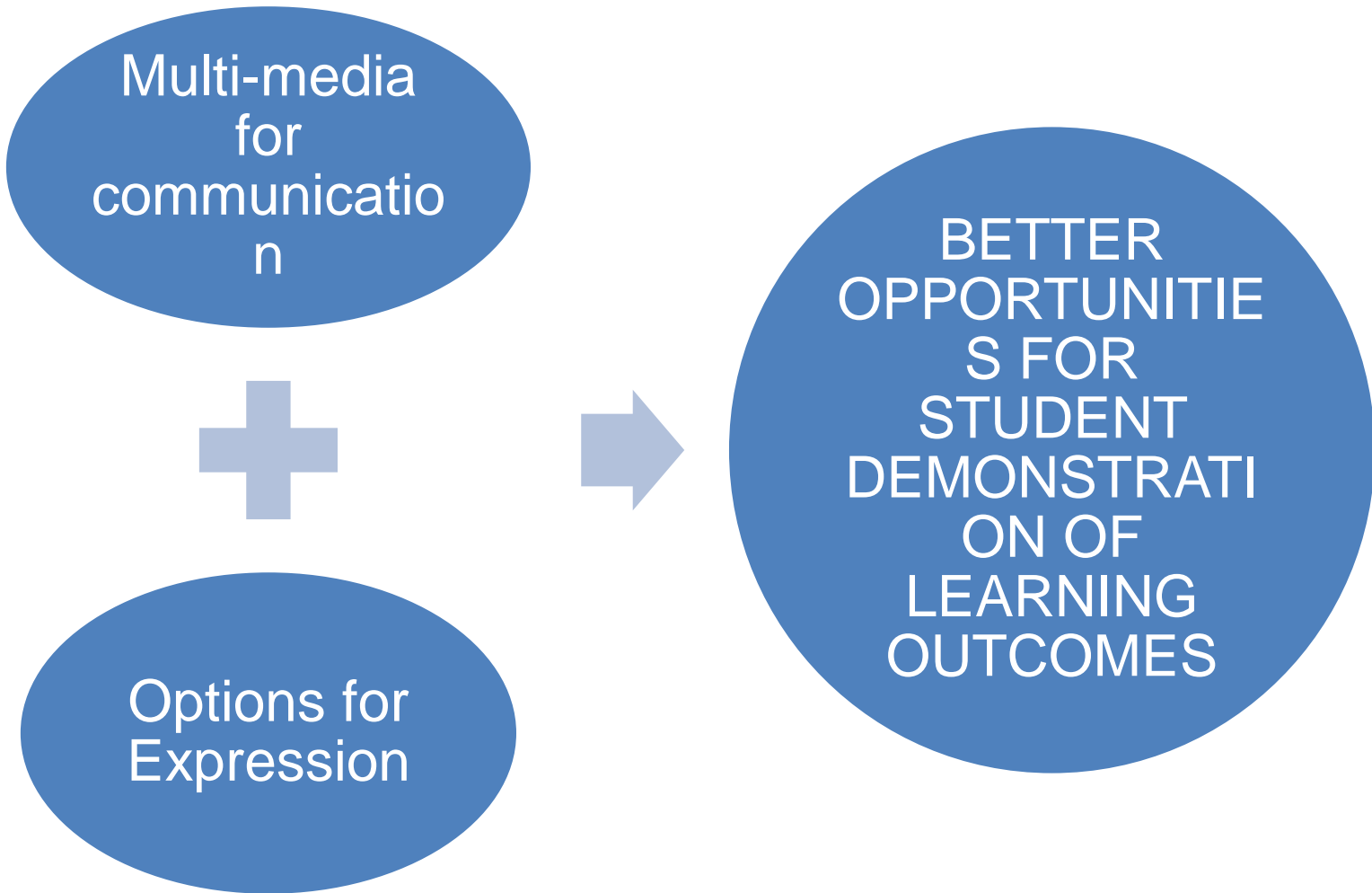
Multiple Means of Representation

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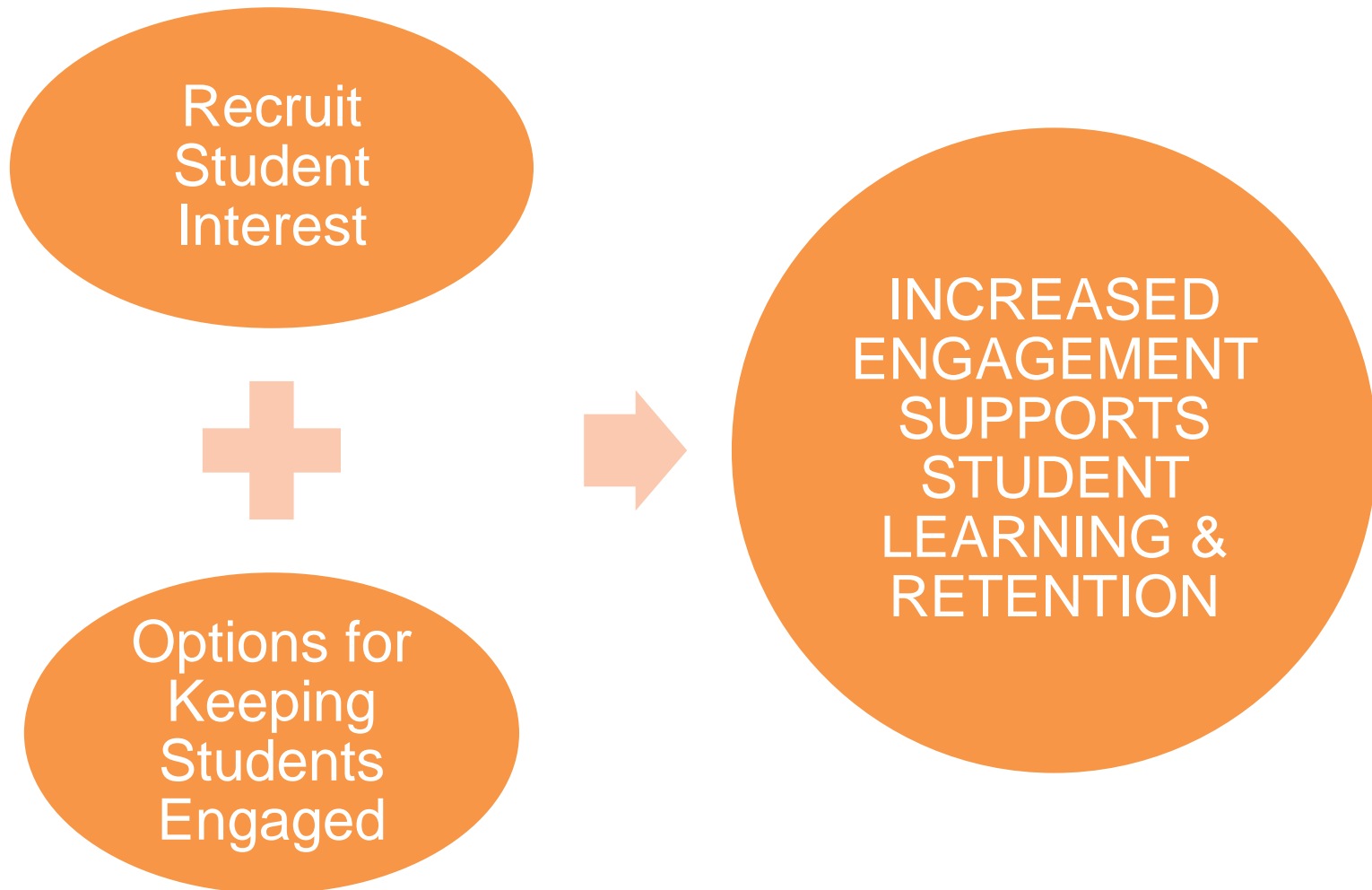
Multiple Means of Expression

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Multiple Means of Engagement

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K-12 & UDL

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- Allows educators to use UDL to create lessons that address all classroom learners regardless of learning styles
- Supports the use of assistive technologies for all students rather than just students with disabilities
- Provides learning support for students who may not have IEPs (learning plans)

Higher Education & UDL

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- University classrooms are diverse
- Students have a wide variety of backgrounds, experiences, and abilities, i.e. English as a second language, learning disabilities, sight or hearing impairments, mobility limitations, etc.
- Students have individual learning styles/preferences (e.g. visual, kinesthetic, linguistic, musical, logical, etc.).
- Curriculum that considers the needs of diverse learners makes for a richer learning experience for all students

UDL & Current Online Course Design

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- Multiple Means of Representation
 - ▣ Textbooks
 - ▣ Videos
- Multiple Means of Expression
 - ▣ All students complete the same assignments in the same format/medium
- Multiple Means of Engagement
 - ▣ Discussion boards
 - ▣ Office hours

Multiple Means of Representation

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Strategies for Adopting Multiple Means of Representation

- Add additional resources, i.e. videos, podcasts, presentations, graphics, etc.
- Mix static reading content with other types of content
- Offer audio learning content or help students learn how to use text to voice options available in programs like Microsoft Office

Multiple Means of Expression

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Strategies for Adopting Multiple Means of Expression

- ▣ Provide options for physical action
- ▣ Provide options for students, i.e. allow student to decide whether to write a paper, tell a story or create a video
- ▣ Focus more on content than on word count
- ▣ Use a variety of assessment types

Multiple Means of Engagement

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Strategies for Adopting Multiple Means of Engagement:

- Clickers
- Discussion boards
- Live chats
- Social networking
- Group work
- Phone conferences
- Webinars
- Hands on activities/projects
- Personalized e-mails

Questions?

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Questions?

Comments?

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UDL Resources:

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- National Center on Universal Design for Learning (www.udlcenter.org)
- UniversalDesign.com
- Free Technology Kit for UDL
(<http://udltechtoolkit.wikispaces.com/>)
- The Universal Design for Learning Implementation and Research Network
(<http://udl-irn.org/udl-irn-created-resources/>)

UDL Resources:

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UDL in Practice:

Links from the National Universal Design for Learning Task Force:

- ▣ UDL is an evidence-based practice.
<http://www.udlcenter.org/research/researchevidence>
- ▣ UDL is a part of several state-wide initiatives.
<http://udl4maryland.webs.com/>
- ▣ UDL is being used on college campuses.
<http://udloncampus.cast.org>