Erica and Ashley's Tips for Universal Design

Assignments and Assessments

Scaffold assignments and work

- Allows students to build on their knowledge
- Provides incremental opportunities for feedback

Provide feedback to students

- Review early versions or components of projects
- Tailor the feedback to each student
  - Students with disabilities find this particularly helpful

Notes and PowerPoints

Provide lecture notes. It will help:

- Students who do not know they have a disability
- Students who already have a disability, but are afraid to ask for the accommodation
- Students who would like to listen and engage in the lecture, instead of frantically writing notes

  It does not absolve the need to take notes, rather it offers additional support for all.

If there is a note taker provided as an accommodation for a student, offer to provide those notes to all students 1 week after class.

Provide the PowerPoint before the lecture

- Students can then create additional notes within the PowerPoint slides as they follow along

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PDF all PowerPoints and lecture notes

An accessible PDF provides a hidden structure to present the content in the correct order for a screen reader. This is vital for students with visual impairments.

Here is how to create an accessible PDF using Adobe Acrobat.

Wielding Canvas

Canvas is a great Learning Management System. Take advantage of the UF Instructional Designers who will work with you to create materials for a more engaging and accessible course.

Using canvas, even in a face-to-face course, helps all students. It is like having a one stop shop, where students can easily find all the materials for the course.

1. Canvas allows students in multiple courses to see, at a glance, a calendar of due dates and assignments.
   - This is particularly helpful for students who struggle with organization, and time management. Canvas also provides them with alerts for upcoming assignments.

2. Canvas discussions foster a learning community where you encourage students to share notes and self-created study guides.

3. Entering all assignment grades into canvas allows you to easily monitor student performance.
   - For student athletes this is especially helpful, as academic affairs can link right into your canvas shell and access the student's progress. This saves you from filling out any forms.

   In addition, students can constantly monitor their own progress and see exactly where they stand.

4. All communications with students become archived.

Communication

Prompt your students

- Consider providing messages, verbal and written, within your course to foster communication, feedback, and awareness of your expectations

Provide information on how they should communicate

- Many students are not aware of how to communicate professionally.