Curriculum Design

When instructors are designing the course curriculum they are essentially building the backbone of the course. This is the perfect opportunity to think about the design of the course in terms of diverse learners. No two students in a college class learn alike. Therefore by diversifying your instruction you can effectively reach a wider diversity of learners at once. The concept of Universal Course Design is essential to diversifying your curriculum design. Just follow these easy steps:

1. Determine the specific content, skills, and strategies to be learned throughout the course.

2. Ask, "*How will the students access the information?*"

3. Create a UCD Syllabus to increase student understanding of what to expect in the course.

4. Choose multi-media and culturally responsive materials.

For example a philosophy professor created a UCD syllabus and found the following results:

- Students were less confused about the course logistics (when something is due, what to read, etc.).

- Students preferred her online office hours to her in-person office hours, citing convenience.

- Students reported preferring the UCD syllabus to the traditional one because it is easier to read.

To see examples of UCD syllabi go to www.universalcoursedesign.org.

For assistance in creating a UCD syllabus please contact Kirsten Behling at kbehling@suffolk.edu.