



## Survey Students About the Resources They Need to Learn

Our students come to us with different experiences, strengths, and learning needs, and we are tasked with ensuring that they are all able to engage productively with the course materials. The key to helping all students reach their academic goals is to make learning accessible as much as possible. We can achieve this by providing the resources that our students need to learn best and ensuring equitable learning opportunities.

The question, then, is what resources do our students need to learn? We can only answer this question by asking them.

### Survey Students

At the beginning of your course, ask students to respond to a survey that asks about their learning experiences and the resources they typically use to learn new material. Asking questions about their access to and experience with technology will help you determine how much technical support students may need and if technology-heavy assignments without options for other ways to complete them are appropriate. If students indicate that they are using outdated or ineffective study strategies, consider sharing the information on effective study strategies with students.

### Sample Survey

Early in the course, ask students to complete a survey that includes questions about their learning needs and the resources they have access to. In an online course, this survey can be added to a “start here” module. Learning the responses to these questions allows you to provide resources without students needing to ask. It also allows you to point out the resources to all your students so that they know they are available.

Some students may not disclose that they require additional resources or some may not have a current diagnosis, so it is helpful to give all students access to accessible materials (e.g., transcripts or closed captions) and additional resources such as instructional videos (Posey, n.d.).

### Learning Resources Survey

1. What device will you primarily use to engage with this course?
  - Mobile phone
  - Tablet
  - Desktop or laptop
  - Shared computer (for instance, in a library)
2. How comfortable are you learning or using new technologies?
  - Very comfortable
  - Somewhat comfortable
  - Not comfortable



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3. How would you prefer to learn something new?
  - Listen to a lecture
  - Read a book or article
  - Watch a video
  - Work in a small group
4. What learning resources have you used successfully in your other classes?
  - Closed captions on videos
  - Transcripts for videos
  - Screen readers
  - Tutoring center
  - Writing center
5. When is it easiest for you to remember new information?
  - When you read about it
  - When someone tells you about it
  - When you see new information in pictures
  - When you write it down
6. Is there anything about the way you learn that I should know about?
7. What learning supports have you appreciated in past courses?
8. What time of day do you typically complete your coursework?

### Using the Survey Results

Make sure to share with your students how you used the survey results. Student responses to the survey should help you point out resources they identified that you already have in your course as well as the additions made after looking at the survey results.

### Source

Posey, A. (n.d.). *Universal Design for Learning (UDL): A teacher's guide*. Understood.  
[https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/for-educators/universal-design-for-learning/understanding-universal-design-for-learning?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=paid&utm\\_campaign=evgrn-may20-edu&gclid=Cj0KCQiAtqL-BRC0ARIsAF4K3WEH-hNS9ANIWtjr79DA\\_GQK4Hg](https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/for-educators/universal-design-for-learning/understanding-universal-design-for-learning?utm_source=google&utm_medium=paid&utm_campaign=evgrn-may20-edu&gclid=Cj0KCQiAtqL-BRC0ARIsAF4K3WEH-hNS9ANIWtjr79DA_GQK4Hg)