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Student Success
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Teaching

Survey Students and Colleagues About the Resources They Need to Be Successful

Students and colleagues come to us with different experiences, strengths, and learning needs and we are tasked with ensuring that they are all able to productively engage academically, socially, and professionally. The key to helping everyone reach their academic and professional goals is to make learning accessible regardless of anyone's learning or experiential differences. We can achieve this by providing the resources that our students and colleagues need to learn best and ensuring equitable learning and work-related opportunities (Posey, n.d.).

Survey Students and Colleagues

The question, then, is what resources do our students and colleagues need? We can only answer this question by asking them. At the beginning of the semester or onboarding process, ask students and team members to respond to a survey that asks about their learning and work-related 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 they may need and whether technology-heavy assignments without options for ways to complete them are appropriate.

Sample Survey

Learning Resources Survey

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



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4. When is it easiest for you to remember new information?
 - When you read about it
 - When someone tells you about it
 - When someone shows or models it
 - When you see new information in pictures
 - When you write it down
 - Other:

5. Is there anything about the way you learn or what you may need to successfully complete your work-related tasks that I should know about?

Using the Survey Results

Make sure to share with your students and colleagues how you used the survey results. Responses to the survey should help you point out resources they identified that you already have in your course and department as well as the additions made after looking at the survey results. You may also meet with individual students and colleagues to discuss the identified resources they need if they are not easily provided.

Reference

Posey, A. (n.d.). *Universal Design for Learning (UDL): A teacher's guide*. Understood.
<https://www.understood.org/en/articles/understanding-universal-design-for-learning>