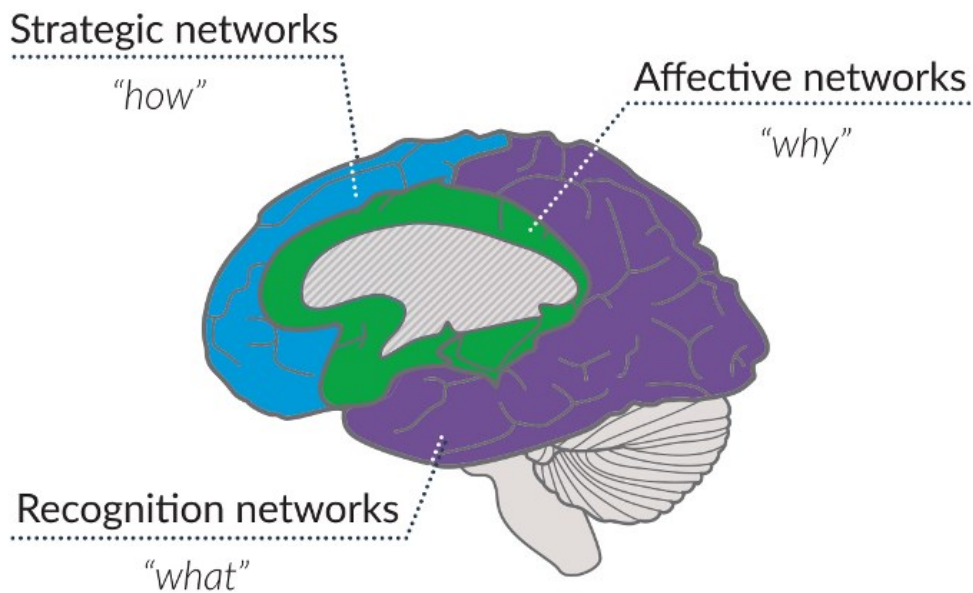


What is UDL

Universal Design for Learning was developed through the Centre for Applied Special Technology (or CAST) in the early 1990s. At its heart, UDL shifts the view of diversity and disability from the student and towards the educational environment. Meaning, the barriers that occur in education are not the result of the learner, but the lack of inclusive options within the curriculum design, development, and delivery process. Research identifies universal design, generally, as a “best practice” approach to curriculum design, development and delivery in all educational environments, including face-to-face, blended and online.

Networks & Principles

The UDL guidelines are based on three primary brain networks:

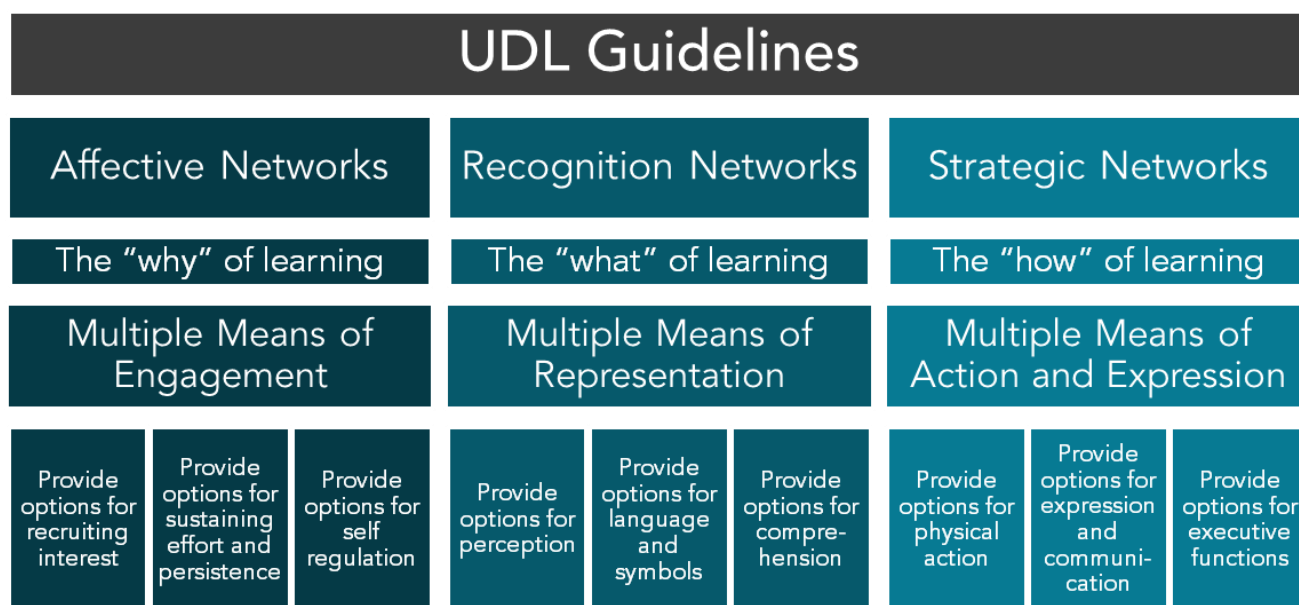


Each network is identified by a principle to guide curriculum design, development and delivery. These principles are:

- Multiple means of engagement
- Multiple means of representation
- Multiple means of action and expression

Each network and principle contains three checkpoints (nine in total) to guide curriculum design, development, and delivery by suggesting areas to provide options that can remove barriers to learning and/or include opportunities to improve learning and engagement.

How it All Works



Affective networks are the “why” of learning and require multiple means of engagement to support learners. This can be accomplished by providing options for recruiting interest; sustaining effort and persistence; as well as self-regulation.

Recognition networks outline the “what” of learning. Within UDL this network requires the use of multiple means of representation including providing options for perception; language, math and symbols; as well as comprehension.

Strategic networks are the “how” of learning and needs multiple means of action and expression to decrease barriers and increase learning opportunities. In order to do this, options need to be provided for physical action; expression and communication as well as executive functions.

Essentially, Universal Design for Learning is about providing learning options to students so that they have the opportunity to learn as well as they can, and then demonstrate what they know as authentically and as accurately as they can. This leads to improved learning for students and more accurate assessments for educators. The goal of UDL is not just to support better inclusion in our diverse learning environments, but to create future ready, expert learners who are purposeful and motivated; resourceful and knowledgeable; and strategic and goal-directed.

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