

Open UDL Workshop: Making Your Courses Accessible to All

October 21 - November 4, 2024

Workshop Description

This fifteen-day, online workshop provides an in-depth introduction to Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and the intersection of UDL and Open Educational Practices (OEP), including OER and Open Pedagogy. Participants will review the principles of UDL and explore how OEP can help reduce accessibility barriers for all learners, including those with disabilities. Participants will also learn about best accessibility practices in online courses, including identifying and fixing common accessibility issues. For the workshop project, participants will complete an inventory of one of their courses from an OEP-informed UDL perspective and create a plan for implementing UDL principles and open practices.

Schedule and Participation

The workshop consists of 5 modules over 15 days. We recommend that you log in to the course site at least every other day to complete the workshop activities, engage with colleagues, and receive timely feedback from the facilitators.

Learning Objectives

- Understand and apply the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- Understand accessibility and accommodations as they relate to UDL
- Discover the intersection of UDL and Open Educational Practices (OEP)
- Evaluate course content from an OEP-informed UDL perspective
- Implement UDL and OEP to improve accessibility for all students
- Identify the ways that accessibility tools can detect and remediate accessibility issues

Workshop Outcomes

- Complete an inventory of a course through a UDL and OEP (or, Open UDL) lens
- Create a plan for using UDL principles and OEP to improve student engagement and accessibility

Workshop Facilitators

Antonia Levy

antonia.levy@cuny.edu

Kelly Hammond

kelly.hammond@cuny.edu

The workshop facilitators will log in every day, check the Q&A forum, engage in ongoing discussions, and provide feedback on participants' activities and assignments. The best way to contact facilitators is to post a question to the Q&A discussion forum or, for more personal questions that may not benefit all participants, by email.

Workshop Requirements

Following the ungrading model's principles, this workshop focuses on participant engagement and extensive feedback from facilitators. All activities will be allotted points for completion – to fulfill the stipend requirements (see below) – but will be marked as only complete/not complete for grading.

Requirements for the OER Initiative Workshop Stipend

To receive a workshop stipend, eligible participants* are expected to participate in each workshop module, complete each learning activity listed in the table below, and earn a final participation grade of at least 85%.

**Those who have obtained supervisor permission and have available NTA hours.*

Learning Activities

Activity	Weighting
Discussions	60 %
Workshop Project: Open UDL Planning Tool	30 %
Workshop Reflection	10 %
TOTAL	100 %

Discussions (60%)

Participants will discuss and reflect on the materials and activities in each module. In modules 2 - 4, participants will also review their course through the module's lens. The

results of this review will be shared in a Brightspace Discussion topic as the Workshop Project.

Workshop Project: Open UDL Planning Tool (30%)

The final project of the workshop is the completion of the Open UDL Planning Tool. The first three sections of the planning tool correspond to the focus of modules 2, 3, and 4. Participants are encouraged to complete these sections during the modules when the material is freshest. The final section of the planning tool will be completed during module 5: a Next Steps plan where you will identify three specific next steps for lowering barriers to learning through Open UDL practices in the course of your choice.

Workshop Reflection (10%)

An element of all of our workshops, this is a learner-centered, open-pedagogy practice that highlights student agency in the learning experience.

Workshop Site Organization

The workshop site on Brightspace is organized as follows:

- The **Announcements** area will provide updates and summaries as needed during the workshop. New announcements will also be emailed—please note that such emails are delivered to your Brightspace-associated email account.
- **Start Here** contains the workshop syllabus and schedule.
- **Modules 1-5** contain the materials, resources, and activity prompts for the modules of this workshop.
- Under **Additional Resources**, we have combined the links to all major resources used throughout the workshop, for easy reference.

Accessibility Statement

We aim to create a workshop experience that is as accessible and inclusive as possible for all. We have relied on UDL principles, such as providing some choice and flexibility, and we have used Ally to review the accessibility of our workshop materials. We welcome any feedback that can make our workshops more accessible and more inclusive: if there is a revision or adjustment that can enhance your participation in this workshop, please reach out to your facilitators and let them know. Participants with disabilities may also wish to reach out to the [Office of Human Resources](#) for additional accommodations.

Workshop Schedule

Module / Topic	Module Content	Module Activities
Module 1: UDL & Accessibility Mon, Oct 21 - Wed, Oct 23	Principles of Universal Design in Learning (UDL) Accommodations vs UDL	Icebreaker Discussion <i>Optional: Office hour on Tue, Oct 22 from 9-10 am</i>
Module 2: UDL & OEP Assessment Practices Thur, Oct 24 - Sat, Oct 26	Overlap of UDL and OEP Open UDL Assessment Practices	Discussion Open UDL Planning Tool: Assessment section
Module 3: Accessible Documents and Media Sun, Oct 27 - Tue, Oct 29	Best practices for accessibility of documents and media Brightspace Ally Creating an Accessible Syllabus, Part 1	Review Ally's course report Discussion Open UDL Planning Tool: Documents and Media section <i>Optional: Support sessions for Brightspace Ally (pick one) Monday, Oct 28 from 9-10 am, or from 5-6 pm</i>
Module 4: UDL, OEP, and Your Teaching Wed, Oct. 30 - Fri, Nov 1	UDL and OEP in everyday course activities Creating an Accessible Syllabus, Part 2	Discussion Open UDL Planning Tool: Teaching and Learning Activities section <i>Optional: Office hours by appointment</i>
Module 5: Reflection and Next Steps Sat, Nov 2 - Mon, Nov 4	<i>No new materials to review (as per the UDL and OEP practice of making space 😊)</i>	Open UDL Planning Tool: Next Steps Workshop Reflection