








Best Practices: Implementing UDL

-  **Design for Variability, Not Average**
Avoid designing for a mythical “average learner.”
-  **Align Flexibility with Learning Objectives**
Flexibility should not dilute rigor. Multiple formats must still assess the same learning objective.
-  **Integrate UDL Early**
UDL should be embedded during initial design—not retrofitted.
-  **Combine UDL with Evidence-Based Instruction**
UDL is a framework, not a pedagogy. It should be paired with instructional strategies supported by research.
-  **Maintain Clarity and Structure**
Too much flexibility without structure may overwhelm learners.
-  **Evaluate and Iterate**
Collect data on learner performance and engagement to refine UDL strategies.
-  **Maintain Accessibility Compliance**
Accessibility remains foundational.

Comparative Overview

Accessibility	UDL
Ensures access to learning (legal compliance)	Optimizes learning for all learners
Reactive (accommodations)	Proactive (flexible design)
Removes access barriers	Removes learning barriers
Moderate scalability	Moderate scalability (design effort)
Minimal use of data	Evaluation & iteration
Designer ensures compliance	Designer has architect flexibility
Goal: Access	Goal: Effective learning