THE IMPACT OF STUDENTS’ PREFERRED LEARNING STYLES ON CURRICULUM DESIGN & DELIVERY: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

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LEARNING STYLES

- Auditory
- Visual
- Kinesthetic

Determined by using a brief preferred learning styles inventory at start of junior cohort

Progress through curriculum as cohorts
Majority are junior status upon entry
2 semesters theory/lab intensive pre-professional practice as juniors
1 semester professional practice in fall of senior year
1 semester distance learning theory based advanced courses spring of senior year
Auditory

Cohorts

# of students

2003, 7
2004, 19
2005, 4
2006, 15
2007, 12

Auditory
Year/Percentage

2003, 7
2004, 19
2005, 4
2006, 15
2007, 12
AUDITORY CURRICULAR DESIGN

- Auditory component of lectures
- Reading to themselves as they study
- Reiterating question so they process question and answer together
- In laboratory settings they need to hear instructions before performing
VISUAL CURRICULAR DESIGN

- Pictures or other visuals such as flow charts or algorithms to break down complex curricular components
- Notes or drawings
- In laboratory settings they need to see it done prior to performing
Kinesthetic Curricular Design

- Need to have some sort of movement or activity
- Manipulatives aid in the learning process
- In laboratory settings prior practice of performance is needed
DELIVERY: TRADITIONAL CLASSROOM

○ **Classroom**
  - Capped enrollment/lecture
  - Try to incorporate each learning style into each individual lecture
  - Assignments tailored to diverse learning styles

○ **Lab Setting**
  - Capped enrollment/lab
  - Designed labs to incorporate “pods”
  - Lab groups assigned to incorporate diverse learning styles
Include audio with lecture material
Include suggestions or assignments that include a kinesthetic component
Include resources that will enhance auditory and visual learners
How is it working?

- Challenges
  - Proctored Exams
  - Self paced vs benchmarked distance courses
    - “Waves”
  - Transitioning from WebCT® to Blackboard®
Podcasting

Flexible curriculum delivery based on cohort learning style composite
Any questions?

Contact Information

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