

A Visual Representation of Your Course

Have you ever wondered what you could do to help your students understand why you are teaching what you teach and in the order and manner in which you teach it?

As the faculty member, you know the structure of the course and why the topics are presented in a certain order, but do the students really get it?

Why not try producing a visual representation of your course? Universal Design for Learning (<http://www.cast.org/udl/index.html>) suggests that multiple options for representation of content (<http://www.udlcenter.org/aboutudl/udlguidelines/principle1>) is a great way to help students understand content by guiding information processing and transfer of learning across topics and the course as a whole. There are multiple ways to show the flow of the course. You might draw a concept map and scan it in to create a digital picture to display. You could use a free concept mapping software program like Cmap (<http://cmap.ihmc.us/>) or any software that would allow you to use tools to create a flow of ideas, Microsoft Word and Power Point do this, as well as the free online tool Prezi. (<http://prezi.com/>). The point of this visual representation is to create an alternate way of communicating about how your course works and how the topics in your course relate to each other and the larger ideas in your area of study.

Prepared by Holly B. Parker, Ed.D.
Center for Teaching and Learning
Universal Design for Learning Grant Team
University of Vermont

Submitted by
Henrietta Marcella Menzies, MSIN
Academic Services Professional Senior
Center for Teaching & Learning
University of Vermont
E-mail: hmenzies@uvm.edu