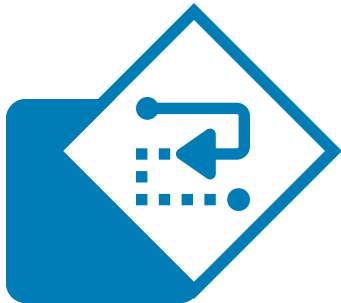


The Impact of Course Design on Student Learning

Effective course design supports student learning and improves outcomes.

Positive impacts on student learning occur when course design is guided by key principles and theories: consistency, usability, findability, cognitive load theory, and chunking.



Consistency

Reduces learnability or the amount of time it takes for students to learn the site and allows students to devote time to course content.

Recommended strategies include: Using course and syllabus templates to guide course design.



Usability

Is a measure of how easy the system is to use. Usable course sites are predictable, easy to navigate, and accessible.

Recommended strategies include: Using course templates, using module structures to organize course content, and automatic grading and feedback strategies.



Findability

Is the measure of the ease with which information or tools can be found in the course.

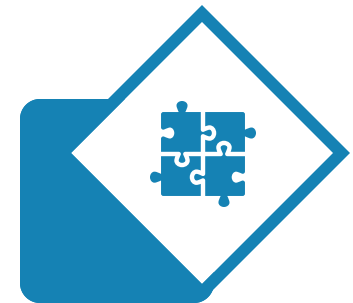
Recommended strategies include: Using consistent labels and naming conventions, hiding unused tools, and placing items in expected locations.



Cognitive Load Theory

Is a framework for understanding the limitations of working memory and how instructional materials should be designed to optimize learning (Yablonski, 2024).

Recommended strategies include: Using course templates, organizing content into modules, and curating content to remove unnecessary or distracting materials so that students can effectively process and retain information.



Chunking

Is the process of organizing complex information into smaller, more manageable pieces so it is easier for learners to understand and retain (Yablonski, 2024).

Recommend strategies include: Break content into smaller pieces across Canvas pages, using modules, breaking videos into shorter segments.