Respect diverse ways of learning is the seventh of Chickering and Ehrmann’s Seven Principles of Good Practice. This journal article can be found in this card’s reference section on the back. It is a set of time and research tested instructional strategies first proposed in 1987.

This principle is a reminder that different learning styles exist. Students bring different talents and personalities to college. Students may excel in seminars but can be challenged in lab environments or studios. Conversely, students strong in hands-on learning can underperform in theory based coursework. Students need the opportunity to show their competencies and learn in ways that suit them best. Afterwards, they can be encouraged to learn in new ways.

Why
Respecting diverse ways of learning supports education by:
- Allowing students with multiple styles and skills to achieve.
- Bringing variety to the coursework.

Best Practices to Consider
- Provide class content online so that students can review material at their own pace. This is especially helpful if the student or instructor has a native language other than English.
- Add audio to PowerPoint slides to assist auditory learners. There are free software tools available that will help you to prepare audio slides.
- Break lectures up into 15 or 20 minute chunks. This is the length of most adult attention spans.
- Include linked audio and video files as supplements to textbooks, discussions, and print documents.
- Consider interviews, lectures, speeches, newscasts, or demonstrations.
- Use online discussion, simulations, case studies, Internet research, and collaborative group experiences to broaden the learning experience and accommodate various learning styles.
- Try to ensure that important resources in your class are “web accessible”. See the link to WebAim below for more information.

More Information
Respecting diverse talents and ways of learning
- This document review several learning styles, the four elements of online learning, and how both can create constructive learning environments.
**Learning Styles: A Review of Theory, Application, and Best Practices**
- This informative resource gives you a survey of the research about teaching and learning for different learning styles with applications.
- URL: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2690881/

**Curriculum Comics #4**
- This lighthearted comic talks about the phenomenon of multiple intelligences amongst students. While a distinction must be made between multiple intelligences and learning styles theories, the theories can be combined to make a more robust theory as described in the following link.

**Integrating Learning Styles and Multiple Intelligences**
- This link discusses the strengths and weaknesses of Learning Styles and Multiple Intelligences theories of learning, and then integrates them to make a new framework for understanding diverse learning. Includes tips for applying the theory to teaching.

**WebAIM**
- This informative 11.5 minute video provides an overview of the difficulties users with disabilities face on the web and some of the motivations for web accessibility.
- URL: http://webaim.org

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