

## Learning Style Overview

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<b>Introduction</b>	<p>Max always sits near the front of the class because he finds that he absorbs more information if he can see the diagrams and notes that the professor writes on the white board. Additionally, Max likes to see the professor's facial expressions and body language which help him to get a better sense of the material.</p> <p>Alyssa is finding it difficult to grasp her subject because the instructor uses few if any illustrations, diagrams, graphics, or handouts. The instructor prefers to lecture and have the students take notes.</p> <p>Marcellus is really enjoying his ESL classes because the instructor uses a lot of role play, music, videos, and interactive exercises. Marcellus finds it easy to understand the information presented in his classes and his comprehension of English is improving every day.</p> <p>Jing Wei's instructor provides the class with many colorful handouts and frequently uses a SMART board to illustrate concepts; however, Jing Wei finds it most helpful to listen carefully to her instructor's lectures and take brief notes.</p> <p>Each of these students has a unique learning style that influences how they receive information. Although none of these students can completely control how they are instructed*, they can certainly influence how they learn.</p>
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<b>What are Learning Styles</b>	<p>Learning styles describe the methods by which you most comfortably acquire and assimilate information (Understanding Your Learning Style, 2008). Each of us has either a predominant learning style or a combination of different learning styles.</p> <p>Many experts (Understanding Your Learning Style, 2008) agree that there are three basic learning styles: visual, auditory, and kinesthetic. Visual learners prefer information to be presented using diagrams, graphics, illustrations, or pictures. Auditory learners appreciate instruction that is enhanced by means of music, discussions, and audio effects: They may find reading aloud or listening to podcasts to be effective learning strategies. Kinesthetic learners need movement and hands-on or tactile interaction to best absorb information; generally, such learners find sitting for long periods of time to be challenging.</p>
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<b>Advantages of Understanding Your Style</b>	<p>Understanding your unique learning style will help you to identify effective strategies to use before, during, and after your classes to enhance your learning. You'll also be empowered to insure that you maximize your comprehension and retention of the information with which you are presented. Use the Learning Style activity link provided in the FYE Career Exploration site to identify your style. Use the Learning Style Worksheet provided to reflect upon your results.</p>
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