

Learning Preferences

Content

Faculty at Clemson University can benefit from information regarding effective learning methods for the new generation of students. Upon analyzing data from a plethora of surveys, we found that students' preferred engaging learning 'styles' that allowed for effective information retention. These preferences can be summed up as learning methods that involve hands-on-activities and inclusive discussions. We created a short video presentation to relay our findings.



What students said

Of the 663 students surveyed, 66% of students indicated they were visual or active learners while only 34% said they were verbal. Further, 42%, 35%, 25%, 15%, 13% of students also indicated they were sequential, sensing, reflexive, intuitive, and global learners respectively. This emphasizes the need for dynamic classroom interaction and engagement, especially in class settings in which verbal lectures are the status quo. The most common learning style survey comments are summarized. Many visual learners stressed their need for diagrams, pictures, graphics, as well as printed notes as important complements to lectures in the classroom. Active learners emphasized the importance of group activities, personable professors, discussion based teaching, and concrete or hands-on examples as necessary methods to aid in their learning and comprehension of course work. Sequential learners voiced their need of professors who come to class with a prepared, ordered teaching agenda.

Learning 'Style' Definitions

- Active: Understand information by discussing or explaining it to others
- Global: Learn in large jumps, randomly absorbing material until you suddenly "get it"
- Intuitive: Enjoy innovation and abstract information, but dislike memorization and calculation
- Reflexive: Prefer to think about the material before it is presented in class
- Sensing: Enjoy learning facts and solving problems using well-established methods
- Sequential: Gain understanding in linear, logical steps
- Verbal: Learn best from written and spoken explanations
- Visual: Learn best through pictures, diagrams, flow charts, demonstrations