ON-DEMAND COURSE SYLLABUS

PARAEDUCATORS AS INSTRUCTIONAL PARTNERS

A UDL Approach

10-HR COURSE

Overview

Paraeducators play a vital role in creating inclusive classrooms where every student can learn, participate, and grow. In this course, participants will explore how Universal Design for Learning (UDL) can strengthen their practice as instructional partners. Through practical strategies, reflection, and real-world examples, participants will learn to recognize barriers to learning, provide supports that increase access while fostering independence, and collaborate effectively with teachers to improve student outcomes. By the end of the course, participants will have a toolkit of strategies and resources to support learner variability and contribute to more inclusive learning environments for all students.

Outcomes

By the end of this course, participants will be able to...

1. Recognize learner variability and identify barriers that may impact student engagement, learning, and participation.
2. Apply UDL-informed strategies that increase access while promoting student independence and learner agency.
3. Collaborate effectively with teachers by communicating observations, sharing instructional insights, and contributing to inclusive learning environments.

COURSE INSTRUCTOR



Pam Tupy

Education Consultant

Pam has spent more than 25 years working to make education more inclusive, collaborative, and human. With experience in elementary and secondary classrooms and a deep background in special education, she has taught, co-taught, and coached educators across a wide range of settings. Her work focuses on UDL, MTSS, co-teaching, and creating learning environments where every student feels seen, supported, and appropriately challenged. Pam brings warmth, practical experience, and a deep understanding of learner variability to her work with educators and paraeducators.

PARAEDUCATORS AS INSTRUCTIONAL PARTNERS: A UDL APPROACH

COURSE OUTLINE

REQUIREMENTS

To complete the course, you must fulfill all requirements including reviewing required materials and completing each lesson's self-assessment. At the end of the course, participants will receive a completion certificate for 10 continuing education hours. Review our FAQs or contact us with any questions.

Module	Objectives	Activities
1 **Understanding UDL and Removing Barriers to Learning**	• Describe the purpose and core principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). • Identify barriers that may interfere with student engagement, access, and learning. • Differentiate between student behavior and underlying learning barriers to better support student success.	• Watch, read and/or listen to the course lessons • Review the required and optional resources to dive deeper into the learning • Reflect & self-assess
2 **Supporting Learning and Increasing Access**	• Apply UDL strategies to increase access and reduce barriers during instruction. • Use scaffolds and flexible supports that promote student engagement, participation, and independence. • Distinguish between support that builds student confidence and support that may unintentionally create dependence.	• Watch, read and/or listen to the course lessons • Review the required and optional resources to dive deeper into the learning • Reflect & self-assess
3 **Collaborating as an Instructional Partner**	• Strengthen collaborative relationships with teachers and other members of the instructional team. • Communicate observations that support instructional decision-making. • Apply strategies that contribute to inclusive, student-centered learning environments.	• Watch, read and/or listen to the course lessons • Review the required and optional resources to dive deeper into the learning • Reflect & self-assess

Courses are entirely online. To access them, you'll need a compatible web browser like Chrome or Firefox. For an optimal experience, we recommend using a desktop or laptop computer with a word processing tool or reader (i.e.Microsoft Word, Libre, or Google Docs). While our course platform is mobile-friendly, a larger screen will provide the best viewing and interactive experience. If you need personal assistance or have technical questions, you can contact us any time. Novak Education is in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).