Pedagogical content knowledge combines content and pedagogical expertise within a content area to employ appropriate instructional strategies that successfully address the most common misconceptions of students; the most difficult concepts for students; the most effective sequencing of concepts; important relevant connections; and the most crucial knowledge and skills students should master by the end of a course.

Inclusive pedagogy is a student-centered teaching approach that considers all students’ backgrounds, experiences, and learning variabilities in the planning and implementation of student engagement activities, equitable access to content, mutual respect, and a more robust learning experience for all learners.

The curriculum and corresponding instruction is most effective when it intentionally provide links between learning objectives, assignments, activities, and assessments, encourages students to think critically about the application of content to both the broader discipline and the world, and are representative of the diversity of scholars in the field.

Motivation is triggered by the perceived value or benefit of the academic content or task. Student involvement and commitment to learning increases when an instructor uses a variety of researched motivation techniques.

Classroom climate refers to the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical environment in which students learn. The instructor has the greatest influence on classroom climate, and therefore can make intentional decisions to foster a community of diverse learners.

Student assessment exists in two forms: summative and formative. Summative assessment occurs at the end of a unit or assignment and evaluates students’ learning against a benchmark or standard. Formative assessments and low-stakes assignments inform instructors and students of how much, and to what extent, content or skills are mastered; they are frequent and ongoing. Teaching strategies can then be adjusted to meet students’ needs. Integrating a variety of assessment strategies provides all students with multiple opportunities to succeed.

The classroom, whether it be on campus or virtual, draws students from different backgrounds with various experiences and abilities. Using a variety of instructional strategies increases student engagement, critical thinking, connections to learning outcomes, and student success for all learners. Being an effective teacher requires the implementation of creative and innovative teaching strategies that work best for your course, your students, and your teaching style.