Using Learning Preferences to Inform Module and Curriculum Design

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**Recommended Citation**
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Questions, ...

VISONAL
AUDITORY
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How do your students like to learn?

What do you see? A blank slide or an opportunity to listen?

Who are Generation Y?

Who are these students that we teach?

Tools for Assessing Learning Preferences

- ‘no one instrument can capture all the richness of the phenomenon of learning style’ Hawk and Shah (2007)
- Suggest that learning preference tools should be ‘coupled’

Is there more than one way to categorise their preferences?

Tools for Assessing Learning Preferences

Overuse of Technology

- Steele et al, 2002
  - Medical students’ evaluations of a computer assisted instructional program
  - Many students prefer lecture and text-based learning
  - Worry that technology will replace student-lecturer contact

They crave technology, but can we give them too much?

We celebrate diversity, so why assess all the same?

...Answers...

- Important to recognise the different learning preferences that exist among students
- This project investigated the nature of learning preferences and how they may be introduced into the classroom.
- VARK model (Fleming, 1992), which categorises a student based on them being a visual, auditory, reading/writing or kinaesthetic type of learner.
- The majority of students are multi-modal learners.
- Although there are many different models used in the literature to describe learning preferences, a common theme amongst them is the direct link with the human senses.
- Emergence of technology within the classroom (‘Generation Y’).
- Adapting teaching practices must also involve changes to assessment strategies.

...and Solutions

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