

COURSE DEVELOPMENT FOR WORKING PROFESSIONALS

Thank you for committing your time to teach with the University of Denver's Center for Professional Development. We know you are dedicated to providing a rich, engaging learning opportunity for students and hope this resource will support you in developing a course that incorporates strategies to do so.

Who are Our Students?

CPD attracts a wide audience through our diverse set of course offerings. Our students are:

- Post-college Adults
- DU Alumni
- Community Members
- Business Professionals
- Organizational Leaders
- Mental Health Professionals & Social Workers
- Savvy and Intelligent
- Engaged and Motivated
- Self-Directed
- Often Engaging with DU for the first time

What are They Looking for?

Students engage with CPD because they are looking to learn a new skill, add a credential, or deepen their existing skillset. They're here voluntarily, having sought out this learning opportunity. Your students have certain needs and expectations from your course:

- To understand why the material & concepts are important to their professional lives/roles
- To leave with applicable knowledge & skills
- To connect with their peers and colleagues
- To share their experiences and learn from the experiences of others
- To feel respected and valued

How can You Support their Learning?

Adult students are seeking out this opportunity to learn from you. The most impactful way to engage them in your course is to directly address what they are looking for. Here are some methods we, at CPD, find effective for engaging our students:

- Allow opportunity to share and compare experiences.
- Avoid "talking head" or lecture-style instruction.
- Provide opportunity for peer-to-peer engagement, with you and other learners.
- Incorporate multi-modal forms of learning (i.e., discussion, videos, etc.).
- Design courses with age in mind: remember the impact of culture-shaping historical events and current climate, and think about where students may be in their lives.
- Draw parallels between course content and experience (yours and the students').

Where Can I Find More Information?

Here are some additional resources for fostering a learning-based environment for your classroom.

- [Fostering Motivation in Professional Development Programs](#)
- [11 Tips to Engage and Inspire Adult Learners](#)
- [Peers Teaching Peers](#)

For more information and additional support, contact CPD at

du.edu/professional

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