

## Overview of Basic Learning Preferences:

**Visual learners** would rather read a textbook or study a diagram than to listen to a lecture. The traditional hour-long college lecture will be difficult for a purely visual learner.

**Auditory learners** would rather listen to an explanation than read it. Auditory learners may learn a great deal during lectures; studying a textbook will be more difficult.

**Kinesthetic learners** prefer doing, feeling, moving, manipulating, taking apart and putting back together, touching. Another term for this type of learner is a tactile learner.

**Social learners** enjoy group project and collaborative learning. Social learners may have difficulty studying alone and tackling individual research projects.

**Independent learners** like the freedom of working alone. An independent learner may feel frustrated by the give and take of group work. Be aware that teamwork and collaboration are vital in many professions, so group project work in college can help develop important social skills that lead to employability skills.

**Conceptual learners** enjoy theories and ideas. They crave information and may not care that a subject isn't particularly useful. You may dislike hands-on learning experiences in labs and computer centers.

**Pragmatic learners** are practical. They want to learn useful information that can be applied to the here and now. They often feel impatient with theories and abstract explanations.

## **Common Characteristics of Learning Styles:**

### **Visual Learners**

- Learn best by seeing information
- Can easily recall printed information in the form of numbers, words, phrases, or sentences
- Can easily understand & recall information presented in pictures, charts, or diagrams
- Have strong visualization skills and can loop up and "see" information
- Can make "movies in their minds" of information they are reading
- Have strong visual-spatial skills that involve sizes, shapes, textures, angles, and dimensions
- Pay close attention & learn to interpret body language
- Have a keen awareness of aesthetics, the beauty of the physical environment and visual media

### **Auditory Learners**

- Learn best by hearing information
- Can accurately remember details of information heard in conversations or lectures
- Have strong language skills that include well-developed vocabularies and appreciation of words
- Have strong oral communication skills that enable them to carry on conversations and be articulate
- Have "finely tuned ears" and may find learning a foreign language relatively easy
- Hear tones, rhythms, and notes of music and often have exceptional musical talent

### **Kinesthetic Learners**

- Learn best by using their hands or full body movement
- Learn best by doing
- Learn well in activities that involve performing (athletes, actors, dancers)
- Work well with their hands in areas such as repair, sculpting, art, working with tools
- Are well-coordinated with a strong sense of timing and body movements
- Often wiggle, tap their feet, or move their legs when they sit
- Often were labeled as "hyperactive"