



Faculty Innovation Center

Online Learning Styles Resources

- Learning styles are not fixed personality traits, but are the result of unique individual programming (Kolb, 1984).
- A person's professional orientation (due to training and a common set of values and beliefs) can shape learning styles.
- They are measured by self-report of preference rather than measured by tasks that differentiate abilities.
- There are many Web sites that feature learning styles. For example:
<http://www.support4learning.org.uk/education/lstyles.htm#General>
<http://www.ncsu.edu/felder-public/Papers/LS-Prism.htm>
- Listed below are three learning styles inventories that are used in engineering schools.

Felder's Index of Learning Styles

The *Index of Learning Styles* is an instrument used to assess preferences on four dimensions (active/reflective, sensing/intuitive, visual/verbal, and sequential/global) of a learning style model formulated by Richard M. Felder and Linda K. Silverman. The instrument was developed by Richard M. Felder and Barbara A. Soloman of North Carolina State University. Both an on-line version and a pencil-and-paper version of the instrument may be accessed from this page.

<http://www.ncsu.edu/felder-public/ILSpage.html>

Kolb

This index assesses a comprehensive learning cycle that is based on experiential learning or hands-on learning. Kolb based this approach on John Dewey (1938) who described intelligence as resulting from someone's interaction and their environment. Basically, it involves a four stage learning cycle in which (1) the learner is exposed to a concrete experience, or a simulated real-life situation; (2) this experience is observed and reflected upon; (3) the experience is abstracted, conceptualized and generalized, as in building a theory; and (4) the generalization is tested or actively experimented with in a new situation which leads to new concrete experiences. Kolb contended that individual preferences exist for grasping information concretely or abstractly at first.

<http://smccd.net/accounts/ctl/gold/styles/inventory.html>

VARK: A Guide to Learning Styles

VARK is a questionnaire that provides users with a profile of their preferences. These preferences are about the ways that they want to take-in and give-out information while learning. This web site provides answers to frequently asked questions, a downloadable questionnaire, and guidelines for using VARK.

<http://www.vark-learn.com/english/index.asp>