



Mastery-Oriented Feedback¹

UDL CHECKPOINT 8.4: [Increase mastery-oriented feedback](#) — Emphasizes the goal of learning, acquiring additional knowledge and skills, improving, and developing successful long-term habits and learning practices.

What is it?

Mastery-oriented feedback is constructive, specific feedback that encourages a growth mindset and emphasizes the process of learning and skill development. It provides learners with information about what was done well, areas that need improvement, and actionable suggestions. Mastery-oriented feedback informs the learner about their progress toward meeting the learning goals of an assignment. Types of mastery-oriented feedback include:

- **"Feed-up" feedback.** Given gradually over time, feed-up feedback can be more helpful than feedback given all at once.
- **"Feed-forward" feedback.** Given before a learner completes an assignment or task, feed-forward feedback can help learners avoid making mistakes.
- **"Dialogic" feedback.** Given in the form of a conversation between the learner and the instructor, dialogic feedback can help learners to understand their feedback better and to develop improvement plans.

Why do it?

Research has shown that mastery-oriented feedback can have several positive effects on learner learning, including:

- **Highlights learners' strengths and areas for improvement.** Mastery-oriented feedback helps learners understand what they are doing well and what areas they need to improve. This can help them to focus their learning efforts and make more progress.
- **Motivates learners to persevere.** Mastery-oriented feedback emphasizes the importance of effort and practice rather than innate ability. This can help learners to stay motivated even when they are facing challenges.
- **Promotes learners' development of self-awareness.** Mastery-oriented feedback helps learners understand their learning process and what strategies work best for them. This can build learners' capacity for self-assessment, goal setting, and progress monitoring.

¹ Developed using AI, peer-reviewed journal articles, and web-based resources.

How can I apply it?

Here are some of the vital components of mastery-oriented feedback.

- **Use rubrics or checklists.** Rubrics and checklists can help you to provide specific and descriptive feedback. Have learners use them to assess their work and include the completed form when submitting their assignments.
- **Give feedback in a timely manner.** The sooner you give feedback, the more likely learners will be able to use it to improve their performance.
- **Focus on learners' work.** Focus on the learner's work rather than the learner as a person.
- **Be specific.** Acknowledge learners' efforts and positive aspects of their work, providing detailed information about what learners did well and what they need to do to improve.
- **Make it actionable.** Emphasize achieving specific learning goals. Provide suggestions for how learners can improve performance and opportunities to revise and resubmit the work when possible.
- **Meet with learners to discuss their feedback.** Meeting with learners to discuss their feedback can help them to understand it better and to develop improvement plans.

Summary

By providing mastery-oriented feedback, faculty can help learners develop the knowledge, skills, and abilities they need to succeed and achieve their learning goals.