

Inclusive Teaching

What is inclusive teaching? Inclusive teaching, whether face-to-face or distance-based, is one in which the instructor has awareness of student diversity and utilizes knowledge and insight about diverse environments to work with students in creating a safe and collaborative learning space. Diversity in this context is broadly defined to include dimensions such as race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, socio-economic status, age, ability, religious or political beliefs, or other different ideologies. It is also informed by factors that affect learning such as choices made about course content, assigned materials, and its delivery as well as pedagogical approaches and providing students with varied opportunities to share what they know.

Why is it important? Extensive scholarship has demonstrated that student learning is enhanced when courses and pedagogy are thoughtfully designed and executed. Research has also affirmed that engagement in heterogeneous environments, when well planned and deployed, can bring about stronger and/or broader learning outcomes than in more homogeneous environments. William Paterson University, as an institution enrolling among the largest percentage and number of students of color in New Jersey, and a large number of first generation students, has a particular stewardship responsibility and opportunity for leadership with respect to inclusive teaching as it prepares all of our students for future vocational and service achievement.

Resources to Assist with Inclusive Teaching

The following resources are offered to assist faculty with inclusive teaching. Note that inclusive teaching is a journey, not an endpoint. Hence, wherever you may be in your thinking and experience, we in the CTE welcome your reach out to us to assist, and in a non-judgmental and confidential way. Furthermore, this list of resources is intended to be a living and expanding one so we welcome feedback and suggestions for additional ones, particularly as it may apply to specific disciplines.

Inclusive teaching:

<https://sites.lsa.umich.edu/inclusive-teaching/>

<https://web.uri.edu/teach/inclusive-classroom/>

<https://teaching.cornell.edu/teaching-resources/building-inclusive-classrooms>

http://www.crlt.umich.edu/gsis/p3_1

<https://diversity.arizona.edu/creating-inclusive-classrooms>

<http://www.celt.iastate.edu/teaching/creating-an-inclusive-classroom/>

<http://www2.cortland.edu/centers/character/wheel/democratic-classroom.dot>

Research on inclusive teaching:

<http://crlt.umich.edu/print/90467>

Civility in the classroom:

<https://www.niu.edu/facdev/resources/quicktips/transcripts/classroomcivility.shtml>

Examples of classroom incivility:

<https://formsandprocedures.fullcoll.edu/Forms/Classroom%20Civility.pdf>

Sample civility statements from syllabi:

<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/sites/default/files/teachinglearninginitiatives/docs/civilitysamples.pdf>