

Centre for Teaching and Learning

The Centre for Teaching and Learning has as its mission to support and promote teaching and learning excellence, innovation, and scholarship at the University of British Columbia Okanagan.

The Centre for Teaching and Learning serves all faculties and schools at the University of British Columbia Okanagan. The Centre also provides support for graduate students/teaching assistants, post-doctoral fellows/scholars, and sessional/adjunct faculty.



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Fostering a Culture of Respect in the Classroom



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Centre for Teaching and Learning



Fostering a Culture of Respect in the Classroom

For effective learning and academic success, students and instructors need to feel respected and accepted. The classroom needs to be a space where students want to participate and learn without intimidation, and instructors are able to conduct the activity without undue disruption.

A culture of respect is where all are treated fairly, difference is acknowledged and valued, communication is open and civil, conflict is addressed early, and there is a culture of empowerment and cooperation.

To build a culture of respect:

- Plan your course and share your academic expectations with your students.
- Ensure your academic expectations are challenging yet attainable, interesting, and relevant.
- Plan your classroom activities to be physically safe and inclusive.
- Communicate general behavioural ground rules that are explicit and have a rationale.
- Get feedback from students on your behavioural ground rules and clarify as needed.
- For each learning activity, describe the behaviours you expect to see.
- Model respectful behaviour.
- Remind, monitor, diagnose and manage conflicts.

When you encounter disrespectful behaviour:

1. Explain to the individual exactly which behaviour is inappropriate.
2. Explain why the behaviour is inappropriate.
3. Give reasonable choices or consequences.
4. Allow time.
5. Enforce consequences.

Related documents:

Non-Academic Misconduct, see the UBC Academic Calendar.

UBC Respectful Environment Statement

hr.ubc.ca/respectful-environment

To learn more about fostering a culture of respect in the classroom, contact CTL (ctl.helpdesk@ubc.ca).

