



4 ESSENTIAL STRATEGIES FOR INCLUSIVE TEACHING

Interested in making your teaching more inclusive? Here are some strategies you can try:

01

Meet Students Where They Are

Traditional teaching methods exclude many types of students. Instead, you can:

- **Emphasize active learning** and teach in multiple modalities to engage more types of students than lecture alone.
- **Incorporate low-stakes assessments** that allow students to build their confidence and scaffold their learning.
- **Diversify course materials** to share underrepresented perspectives.
- **Use surveys** to get to know your students and check in with them.

02

Foster Connection and Belonging

Students feel safe when they relate to each other and to you. You can:

- **Establish norms** for respectful interactions in your course.
- **Facilitate frequent engagement** opportunities between students.
- **Share your story**, including your own personal or academic struggles.
- **Be available** via office hours and through timely email responses.
- **Use inclusive language** like correct names, pronunciations, and pronouns.

03

Be Transparent with Expectations and Feedback

Unclear expectations and irregular feedback cause anxiety and overwhelm. This disproportionately affects students from certain demographic groups. You can:

- **Share learning objectives** with students, even if they seem obvious to you. This includes course-level, module-level, and assignment-level objectives.
- **Provide clear grading rubrics** whenever possible and use them to grade student work in a timely manner.
- **Share a communication plan** with your students so they know how frequently to expect feedback from you.
- **Provide consistent, constructive feedback** on student work.
- **Make current grades visible** to students whenever possible.

04

Embrace a Growth Mindset

We will never be perfect, but we should always strive to be better. You can:

- **Consider this a work in progress.** We all have biases that can lead to stereotyping and microaggressions, even if we strive to prevent them.
- **Teach with humility.** Admit your mistakes and acknowledge when you don't know the answer. Model this trait for your students.
- **Engage in professional development** on diversity and inclusion topics.

For more DEI resources, visit:

<https://www.eastcentral.edu/cce/diversity-and-inclusion-resources/>