

Sample Diversity Statements for Course Syllabi

On Thursday, August 27th, 2015, representatives of the college's Diversity Committee led the college's first in-house Faculty Diversity Workshop. The workshop was designed to increase the awareness of student needs as it relates to diversity in the classroom, and to help faculty build more inclusive classrooms. The workshop was requested by the faculty in the spring of 2015 after learning more about the needs of our students both in their classrooms and on campus.

Since the workshop, members of the college's faculty have created and used their own version of the Centenary's diversity statement to show their intentional work towards building more inclusive classrooms. As we collect the different diversity statement examples, we will post them below to serve as a resource for others to use.

Example 1:

Class Diversity Statement:

Centenary College of Louisiana—and your professor—value human diversity in all its richly complex and multi-faceted forms, whether expressed through race and ethnicity, culture, political and social views, religious and spiritual beliefs, language and geographic characteristics, gender, gender identities and sexual orientations, learning and physical abilities, age, and social or economic classes. Enrich yourself by practicing respect. For questions, concerns, or more information, contact your professor and/or Centenary's Diversity Chair, listed here: <http://www.centenary.edu/globalengagement/diversity>.

Example 2:

Statement on Diversity:

We value human diversity in all its richly complex and multi-faceted forms, whether expressed through race and ethnicity, culture, political and social views, religious and spiritual beliefs, language and geographic characteristics, gender, gender identities and sexual orientations, learning and physical abilities, age, and social or economic classes. We respect the value of every member of the class, and everyone in the class is encouraged to share his or her unique perspective as an individual, not as a representative of any category. Multicultural and intercultural awareness and competencies are key leadership skills, and we intend to present material and classroom activities that respect and celebrate diversity of thought, background, and experience. College is supposed to challenge assumptions and to provide new and sometimes uncomfortable ways of looking at issues, but if you feel uncomfortable regarding content or perspectives that are presented or discussed by professors, guest speakers, or other students we encourage you to contact one of your instructors immediately so that we can discuss those feelings. We would like to use your preferred language when addressing you, so please let us know if your preferred name (or the pronunciation of that name) differ from what we are using and we ask that each of you let us know your preferred gender pronouns. Your suggestions on how to incorporate diversity in this course in a meaningful way are appreciated and encouraged.

