



## Cultivating Diverse Classrooms: Cultural Competency

**Course Description:** With the increase of social justice issues being highlighted in the media across the country, the practice of cultural competency has become a crucial skill educators are encouraged to practice. Classrooms have become more diverse, creating a need for educators to be cognizant of different practices, beliefs, and needs of each individual student. A number of practices adopted by school districts across the country have been shown to contribute to creating inclusive environments for students from different cultural backgrounds.

This course will cover the subject of cultural competency, and why understanding this subject is crucial to better serve students. Participants will be guided through terminology, the policies and practices that contribute to cultural competency, and be given ideas on how to support student success and positive change in policies and practices of school districts.

**Clock Hours / Continuing Education Units: 5**

### Learning Objectives:

- Identify the terms and concepts associated with cultural competency
- Demonstrate an awareness of the role cultural competency plays in the life of a student and their relationship with the educational system as a whole.
- Evaluate strategies to practice cultural competency in their classroom and ensure minority-identified students have the opportunity to voice needs and ideas related to their education and learning.

**Course Requirements:** To receive full credit for the course, participants must complete ALL assignments. Failure to complete all assignments will result in a non-passing grade

### Getting Started:

- After registering for the course, you will be sent an email with the website address, password and course key you need to access your online course, along with login instructions.
- Access each assignment through the course home page. All assignments will be submitted through the Moodle platform on each respective assignment page.
- Please save a backup copy of all course assignments and completed work.

### Course Outline:

Lesson Number	Lesson Description	Clock Hours
<b>1</b>	<b>Introductions and Overview:</b> Take the time to get to know the class layout, read over the Help section, and review any other materials present in the class to get started. Take your time!	0.2 hours
<b>2</b>	<b>What is Cultural Competency?</b> – In this lesson, participants will read articles explaining what cultural competency is, along with other important terms and concepts.	0.6 hours
<b>3</b>	<b>Diversity 101</b> – In this lesson, participants will examine basic concepts of diversity and how diversity can contribute to and impact classroom interactions.	0.6 hours
<b>4</b>	<b>Intersectionality</b> – Participants will explore the overarching topic of intersectionality and review Ted Talks featuring various speakers on the subject.	0.6 hours
<b>5</b>	<b>Discrimination</b> – In this lesson, participants will examine different examples of discrimination in the education setting and the effects that discrimination has on students.	0.6 hours

<b>6</b>	<b>Race and Ethnicity</b> – In this lesson, participants will analyze some of the differences between the experiences of students of color and white students. They will then read articles explaining more about the importance of being aware of different policies and practices that contribute to racial disparities in schools.	<b>0.6 hours</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Faith Practices</b> – In this lesson, participants will read articles and watch videos explaining how different faith traditions and practices can impact the life of a student. They will examine how educators can be cognizant of these practices and respond with respect and understanding.	<b>0.6 hours</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Refugee Status</b> – In this lesson, participants will read about some of the different areas of the world that refugees are coming from and how the experiences of refugees shape how they learn and interact with others.	<b>0.6 hours</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Cultural Proficiency</b> – In this lesson, participants will learn about what cultural proficiency is and how it relates to education. After reviewing class materials, participants are tasked with examining their school’s cultural proficiency.	<b>0.6 hours</b>
	<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	<b>5 Hours</b>

**Student Requirements and Assessment:** No outside materials will be required for the completion of this course. Participants will be required to complete a series of electronic quizzes to assess their understanding. Participants can earn up to 40 points total for the course. Each quiz may be taken up to three times, with the highest score recorded in the final grade. All quizzes must be completed in order to earn credit.

**Grading Scale:**

100-80% (32-40)	Pass
79%-Below (<32 points)	No Pass

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** If you are a student with a disability and require any auxiliary aids, services, or other accommodations for this class, please email [academy@iowasafeschools.org](mailto:academy@iowasafeschools.org) or call 515.381.0588.

**Professional Development:** Prior to purchasing a course registration, it is your responsibility to ensure that National Safe Schools Convening Online Academy coursework satisfies the license renewal requirements for your state and/or district.