

Creating a Class Culture –

A free and open classroom where every student may participate in comfort and acceptance is paramount to a positive learning experience. All students and instructors have the right to speak openly their opinions whatever they are. But with this freedom comes the responsibility to speak respectfully and defend their opinion honorably. With this expectation as a backdrop to our class, recent events in our world have brought issues of equity and inclusion into greater scrutiny. Please read the following policy statements from the university concerning several areas that may affect you or your classmates.

We will be developing a set of “rules for engagement” in our class during the first week. From this set of rules will come our personal codes of conduct that will endeavor to create the kind of open, curious, and questioning environment that makes college classes vibrant and interesting.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion -

Penn State takes great pride to foster a diverse and inclusive environment for students, faculty, and staff. Acts of intolerance, discrimination, or harassment due to age, ancestry, color, disability, gender, gender identity, national origin, race, religious belief, sexual orientation, or veteran status are not tolerated and can be reported.

- * Submit a report via the [Report Bias webpage](http://equity.psu.edu/reportbias/) (<http://equity.psu.edu/reportbias/>)
- * Contact one of the following offices:

University Police Services, University Park: 814-863-1111
Multicultural Resource Center, Diversity Advocate for Students: 814-865-1773
Office of the Vice Provost for Educational Equity: 814-865-5906
Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs: 814-865-0909
Affirmative Action Office: 814-863-0471

- * Dialing 911 in cases where physical injury has occurred or is imminent

Disability Services -

Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University’s educational programs. Every Penn State campus has an office for students with disabilities. Student Disability Resources (SDR) website provides [contact information for every Penn State campus](http://equity.psu.edu/sdr/disability-coordinator) (<http://equity.psu.edu/sdr/disability-coordinator>). For further information, please visit [Student Disability Resources website](http://equity.psu.edu/sdr) (<http://equity.psu.edu/sdr>).

In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: [See documentation guidelines](http://equity.psu.edu/sdr/guidelines) (<http://equity.psu.edu/sdr/guidelines>). If the documentation supports your request for reasonable

accommodations, your campus disability services office will provide you with an accommodation letter. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early as possible. You must follow this process for every semester that you request accommodations

Counseling and Psychological Services -

Many students at Penn State face personal challenges or have psychological needs that may interfere with their academic progress, social development, or emotional wellbeing. The university offers a variety of confidential services to help you through difficult times, including individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, consultations, online chats, and mental health screenings. These services are provided by staff who welcome all students and embrace a philosophy respectful of clients' cultural and religious backgrounds, and sensitive to differences in race, ability, gender identity and sexual orientation.

If you or someone you know is showing signs of extreme stress, anxiety, or depression, please reach out to a trusted advisor, faculty, or staff member. You do not have to deal with these issues alone. Faculty can help you navigate the CAPS labyrinth and, if necessary, find you help outside this system. If your mental health is becoming a barrier to learning and keeping up in this class, please contact the instructor or TA. Do not suffer in silence. We will work with you to make sure you succeed.

[Counseling and Psychological Services at University Park \(CAPS\)](http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/counseling/)

(<http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/counseling/>): 814-863-0395

Counseling and Psychological Services at [Commonwealth Campuses](https://senate.psu.edu/faculty/counseling-services-at-commonwealth-campuses/)

(<https://senate.psu.edu/faculty/counseling-services-at-commonwealth-campuses/>)

Penn State Crisis Line (24 hours/7 days/week): 877-229-6400

Crisis Text Line (24 hours/7 days/week): Text LIONS to 741741

Academic Integrity -

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. Academic integrity is a basic guiding principle for all academic activity at The Pennsylvania State University, and all members of the University community are expected to act in accordance with this principle. Consistent with this expectation, the University's Code of Conduct states that all students should act with personal integrity, respect other students' dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts.

Academic integrity includes a commitment by all members of the University community not to engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Such acts of dishonesty violate the fundamental ethical principles of the University community and compromise the worth of work completed by others.

