

Blueprint for Belonging

Think of your course as a house, and our EDI blueprint shows where to build features that help every student feel represented, respected, and supported. Use this blueprint to guide your design choices, ensuring your course environment is welcoming and inclusive for all learners.

Attic: Accessibility

-  Include alt text for images
-  When including videos, it is important to ensure closed captioning is available and to have a downloadable transcript file
-  Choose high-contrast and accessible colours (e.g. black text on white background) when creating lesson slides
-  Ensure documents are screen-reader friendly and can be downloaded
-  Offer multiple formats of content (e.g. videos, articles, podcasts)

Upstairs: Representation

-  Avoid using content that contains stereotypes
-  Invite students to share their own experiences and perspectives (e.g. through discussion forums or reflection submissions)
-  Incorporate course materials that reflect a range of cultures, identities, and experiences (e.g. articles, case studies, guest speakers)

Main Floor: Belonging

-  Curate your course content to have a personable, caring, and inclusive tone (syllabus, announcements, feedback)
-  Have an anonymous feedback channel to allow students to share thoughts or concerns
-  Host a weekly discussion forum to encourage students to share their insights on the course topics and converse with their classmates

Basement: Flexibility

-  Include transparent statements throughout the course for expectations
-  For assessments, include rubrics with clear criteria and simple language
-  Offer assignment submissions format options (written, visual, oral)
-  Build in grace periods or flexible deadlines