

Diversity Content in Curriculum

Goal: To recommend strategies that incorporate diversity content (i.e., non-majority histories, biographies, issues, research, cultures, arts, etc.) in departmental curricula, course offerings and/or university-wide forums

Objectives:

1) Establish an MSU Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies Program annually supported with recurring funds

Annually recurring funds have been established to support the Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies Program (ICSP).

2) Establish a center or institute of diversity studies on campus that includes Interdisciplinary Women's Studies, Appalachian Heritage, Cultural Studies, and Arts & Humanities Council annually supported with recurring funds

Morehead State University has not established center or institute of diversity studies.

3) Organize and conduct a campus-wide, interdisciplinary series of lectures, workshops, and seminars on issues of diversity

The MSU Diversity Initiative resulted in the Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies Program, which has since coordinated conferences featuring diversity content and issues. In addition, the initiative and other campus-wide programs (co)sponsored events and dialogues focusing on diversity. Examples include cultural entertainment events (Terrance Simien and the Zydeco Experience), featured artists and public lectures on homophobia and discrimination (i.e., "When Gays Move into Mr. Rodgers' Neighborhood" and Suzanne Pharr, guest lecturer); tolerance and diversity (Dr. Kelly James Clark, guest lecturer); and the intersection of race, gender, and region (Dr. Bette Dickerson, guest lecturer).

4) Increase the inclusion of diversity content in instructional and/or training resources for the diversity component of MSU 101

In its response to the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education's Committee on Equal Opportunities' assessment, the university seeks to conduct diversity workshops for faculty and staff and add the Ethnic Dialogues, a diversity awareness program, as a credit course.

Multicultural Student Services co-sponsored a refresher session for faculty and staff trained in facilitating Ethnic Dialogues. Morehead State University administrators also participated in Ethnic Dialogue training.

MSU 101's current textbook, *MSU 101: Discovering University Life*, supports a critical analysis of campus culture and diversity.

5) Develop a website or electronic link of established course offerings pertaining to diversity content

Morehead State University maintains a website with links to resources, services, programs and course offerings, which pertain to diversity content.

Evaluation

Despite the absence of a diversity studies institute, MSU administrators, departments, and programs have made efforts to incorporate diversity content within university settings, course offerings, and electronic resources. The next initiative should continue to support and strengthen these and other diversity content goals. For example, a website describing diverse *course offerings* at MSU should be created and easily made accessible to current/prospective students. This website would differ from but complement the MSU Diversity website's "Resources & Services" link, which shows *programs* of diverse content. Structurally, the university may consider a diversity requirement, in which all baccalaureate-seeking students complete 1-2 courses chosen from a list of approved-diversity courses. Having said this, it would be important to assess what courses and curricula are needed to further enhance student outcomes and diversity goals.