

College of Southern Idaho
Teacher Education

EDUC 204 Families, Communities, and Culture Diversity Statement of Informed Beliefs Portfolio Entry

As you begin your teacher preparation, it is essential that you review and evaluate your personal beliefs about diversity because these beliefs will provide the foundation for how you will teach. This belief must be informed and supported by both your experience and information from theory and research on teaching and learning from EDUC 204 and other courses as appropriate. Since these are informed beliefs, you will provide a Reference page showing your references. Attach the Diversity Statement rubric with your portfolio entry.

For this entry of your professional portfolio, write an essay with your statement of informed belief about working in a profession that focuses on the diversity of learners and supporting the learning of all students. The statement should address the following elements, including two theorists: (See your syllabus and check-sheet for all the requirements.)

1) *All Students Can Learn*

Discuss your ideas on the students' ability to learn and the teacher's responsibility in the process. Discuss how you will ensure that all students will learn. How will you (the teacher) manage and lead the classroom so all student will learn?

2) *Teacher's Expectations*

Discuss how teacher expectations influence students' ability to learn. Discuss educational goals and their importance.

3) *Students' Social Ecology Theory*

Discuss your ideas on the importance of connecting learning to students' social ecology. Discuss how families, cultures, and communities have an impact on students' learning.

4) *Cultural Diversity Instruction*

Discuss how you, as a teacher, will acknowledge and build on the life histories and experiences of students' ethnic backgrounds. Discuss the difference between Cultural Pluralism and Cultural Assimilation.

5) *Curriculum for all Learners*

How will you (the teacher) make adjustments in planning, delivery, and assessment? Discuss how teacher assessment informs instructional planning and delivery. Discuss how you will ensure that each learner improves from his or her original level of learning upon entering your classroom.

The Diversity Statement of Informed Beliefs will demonstrate your attitudes and knowledge as a foundation for understanding the diversity among students in school and to be able to make appropriate adjustments in planning, delivery, and assessment of instruction. It is designed to address the following Idaho Core Teacher Standards:

- ICTS 3: Modifying Instruction for Individual Needs – *The teacher understands how students differ in their approaches to learning and creates instructional opportunities that are adapted to students with diverse needs and experiences.*
- ICTS 6: Communication Skills – *The teacher uses a variety of communication techniques to foster inquiry, collaboration, and supportive interaction in and beyond the classroom.*
- ICTS 9: Professional Commitment and Responsibility – *The teacher uses alternative theoretical perspectives and research to guide instructional decision-making and reflection on practice.*