



FACULTY CONTINUING EDUCATION

“PREPARING TO TEACH MULTICULTURALLY”

10 HOURS 1.0 CEUs

What is Multicultural Education?

Multicultural Education is “an educational strategy in which student’s cultures are used to develop effective classroom instruction and school environments” (Gollnick and Chinn, 2013).

Multicultural Education must support and extend the concepts of culture, diversity, equality, social justice, and democracy into the school setting. Through this brief Continuing Education Unit, educators will be able to examine these concepts and their applications in the classroom and in their institution.

Know Yourself and Others

One of the more important traits of multicultural educators is to be able to know their own cultural identity. In addition to knowing themselves, educators need to learn about groups other than their own. Suggested activities to become more aware of other groups may include attending ethnic movies, participating in ethnic celebrations and activities and interacting with members of different groups in a variety of settings.

Educators should make an effort to interact with people who are culturally different. According to Gollnick and Chinn (2013), long term cultural experiences are the most effective way of overcoming fear and misconceptions about different groups. Additionally, educators should not generalize about an entire group on the basis of the characteristics and behaviors of a few individuals.

In direct contacts with different groups, educators are able to learn to be open to traditions and cultural characteristics that enables them to learn and identify themselves with others. Educators’ must learn to understand, empathize with, and participate in a second culture, in order to be able to create multicultural classroom experiences.

Reflect on Your Practice

To provide multicultural education, educators need to reflect on their practice in the classroom, such as:

- Ensure that the content of textbooks accurately portray diversity.
- Recognize racism, sexism, homophobia, and confront students and colleagues who are not treating others with respect.
- Correct their own behavior when they learn that their prejudices are showing.

- Think about ways to use students' cultures to help them learn the course content and skills.
- Continuously improve teaching methods to make sure to include all students.
- Promote positive student relationships that support academic achievement, regardless of gender, ethnicity, age, religion, language, socio-economic status, sexual orientation or exceptionalality.

Activities:

Please answer the following questions in complete paragraphs. Make sure to include a references page and make the appropriate citations.

1. How can you incorporate student cultures into your curriculum/course content?
2. How will you know if you have higher expectations for students in your classroom from specific groups?
3. What practices in schools could support and promote multiculturalism?
4. Describe your cultural identity and the factors that have influenced it.
5. Define "culturally responsive teaching"