The DLE survey was administered between Fall 2020 and Spring 2021, approximately one year since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic presented new challenges for students and faculty. Despite these challenges, colleges must keep diversity and inclusion at the forefront of the curriculum, including opportunities for meaningful discussions. Engaging in critical conversations can impact how students perceive their abilities to interact across difference.

In 2021, students reported facing challenges both in and out of class.

- 58% took five or more courses that were mostly online instruction since entering their institution
- 59% frequently felt overwhelmed by all they had to do
- 57% frequently felt anxious

Despite these challenges, many students enrolled in at least two courses that included materials/readings about...

- 47% race/ethnicity
- 28% sexual orientation
- 44% socioeconomic class differences
- 26% disability

...And their courses were facilitated by faculty and instructors who:

- 81% shared their own experiences and background in class
- 74% turned controversial topics into meaningful discussions
- 78% helped students learn how to bring about positive change in society
- 59% had open discussions about privilege, power, and oppression

Students engaged in critical reflection and dialogue.

- 56% frequently felt challenged to think more broadly about an issue
- 45% frequently applied concepts from courses to real-life situations
- 44% critically evaluated their own political ideology on an issue
- 43% made an effort to educate others about social issues

Many students considered their abilities to live and work in a diverse democracy to be major strengths.

- 65% ability to work cooperatively with diverse people
- 45% tolerance of others with different beliefs
- 42% ability to see the world from someone else’s perspective
- 36% ability to discuss and negotiate controversial issues

Understanding the connections between institutions, faculty, staff, and students provides the information needed to promote change. With insight from the Diverse Learning Environments Survey, you’ll be one step closer to creating the campus climate necessary for student success.