



# INTERCULTURAL AWARENESS

## WHAT IS INTERCULTURAL AWARENESS AND WHY DOES IT MATTER TO MAVEd?

In UNO's revised general education curriculum, **intercultural awareness** is defined as:

**The ability to recognize cultural differences, analyze their significance, and develop the skills needed to navigate complex intercultural contexts.**

Students are expected to:

- Demonstrate **understanding of varied cultural perspectives and traditions.**
- Critically analyze **how culture shapes individual experiences and social relationships.**
- Engage in **dialogue across differences** with empathy and respect.
- Examine **systems, laws, and practices** (historical and contemporary) and their impact on individuals and communities.

This is one of the three **transferable learning outcomes** that must be embedded in every general education course.

## WHY IS INTERCULTURAL AWARENESS IMPORTANT?



### Prepares Students for a Diverse World

Whether students enter the workforce, pursue graduate education, or engage in civic life, they will encounter people from different cultural, ethnic, religious, and ideological backgrounds. Intercultural awareness equips them to **communicate respectfully, work effectively in diverse teams**, and resolve conflicts across cultural boundaries.



### Supports Equity and Human Dignity

By examining systems of power, privilege, and marginalization, students gain the tools to **challenge stereotypes, foster empathy, and advocate for equality**. These insights are foundational for promoting **human dignity** and **social justice** in any community or profession.



### Strengthens Critical Thinking

Analyzing culture involves confronting assumptions, reflecting on personal identity, and understanding historical and global contexts. This enhances students' **analytical and reflective abilities**, deepening their engagement with course material and with the world.



### Aligns with UNO's Mission

As a metropolitan university, UNO has a responsibility to prepare students to be civically engaged, culturally competent, and socially responsible citizens who can contribute meaningfully in local, national, and global contexts

In sum, intercultural awareness is a vital part of the general education experience that helps students understand themselves and others, navigate difference, and become more thoughtful, empathetic, and effective participants in an increasingly interconnected world.

Additional Resources at [MavEd.unomaha.edu](https://maved.unomaha.edu)