

Finding a Starting Place: Part I

What equity work has already been initiated in your department?

Instructions: Feel free to edit these questions to meet your own unique program needs. You may choose to brainstorm your own personal answers to these questions or meet in small groups to discuss your answers. You might even develop a survey or questionnaire that department members can fill out on their own. Once you have gathered answers to these questions, we encourage you to enter your summarized findings into the Final Report right away while the information is fresh in your mind.

Please know that if the answer to all of these questions is “nothing,” that’s absolutely fine. No matter where your department is in the process, you will be able to create goals based on your own unique starting place. Please also note that if any of the terms or ideas in the questions below are less familiar to you, we’ve included resources for you in the Before You Begin and Useful Resources modules in the D2L Shell.

1. Have you completed any Culturally Responsive Pedagogy trainings or other equity related professional development? This might include coursework, MinnState System trainings, local LSC trainings, or any other equity related professional development.
2. Have you begun a course, assignment, materials, or syllabus redesign with equity and/or Culturally Responsive Pedagogy in mind? Make note of any of this work as specifically as possible for future reference.
3. Have you completed any outside reading or research on equity, particularly as related to your program, field, or to education? List any readings or research you can recall.
4. How do you [gather feedback](#) from students? How do you use feedback that has been gathered? This would include official course evaluations as well as any other surveys or check ins you have built into your courses.
5. Has there been any work to [combat racism within any standardized testing](#) that is relevant to your programs?
6. Have you worked to [affirm student identities](#) in the classroom?
7. Have you worked to help make [students of color feel like they belong](#)?
8. Are there any other program or discipline specific ways that your department has begun to explore improving equity?

