

Recommendations and Resources for Supporting Students Before, During, and After the Chauvin Trial

We anticipate students may need support after the trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin for the death of George Floyd.

Tangible Ideas

University staff and faculty may consider the following strategies to support students and reduce the need for last-minute adjustments to accommodate the impact of this trial on students.

In all venues

- Encourage students to attend to their physical and mental health (sleep, nourishment, play, connect with others, use campus and community resources)
- Model actions by attending to your own needs during times of increased stress, allowing students permission to care for themselves as they pursue academic and professional goals
- Ask students directly how they are doing, take their lead on the conversation, and avoid probing if they choose not to respond
 - Implement your unit's existing strategies to support students
 - Offer students, colleagues, and yourself radical empathy
 - Refer students to [campus mental health resources](#) as appropriate

Student-serving units

- Increase the availability and access of drop-in hours for students to direct services
- Focus on the concerns or requests expressed by students and do not assume you know students' identities or concerns
- Consider how the trial, local vigils and protests, and the conclusion of the trial might affect the students served by your unit. What implications may the trial and local vigils and protests have on the services provided by your unit and the needs of students served by your unit? How may the needs of students differ based on their identities?

Supervisors of student employees

- Acknowledge that students may feel distracted and disengaged from their work in the aftermath of the trial
- Directly communicate to student employees if and how you can offer flexibility
- Provide opportunities for optional virtual and in-person check-ins for individuals and groups (within health and safety guidelines)

- Consider schedule adjustments and modifications for student employment during this period as requested

Classroom settings

- Explicitly acknowledge (in writing or verbally) the trial's outcome and the impact it may have on students
- Provide more drop-in office hours for students and state if they can be used for a general check-in, not just for course-related questions
- Communicate directly if you are able to offer flexibility and what types of flexibility are available

Sample language you may consider adapting for communicating with students about the trial

In the aftermath of the trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, for his role in the death of George Floyd, I would like to acknowledge the potential impact this trial's outcome may have on [members of this class / student employees of _____ / you]. It is particularly important for me to name that I know the outcome of the trial will have a disproportionate impact on Black students and employees.

As the community responds to the trial's outcome, I want you to know that I care about how you are doing. If you need flexibility with [assignments/work schedules, etc.] please reach out so that we can work together to find a solution.

Questions?

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