

Social Justice and Inclusion

The Social Justice and Inclusion competency focuses on understanding of self and navigating systems of power, critical assessment, and self-directed, engaging in socially just practice, and organizational system advocacy. This competency concerns creating equitable access for all within the framework of student support, which plays an important role in student affairs. My level of knowledge for this competency is intermediate.

Through coursework, specifically in EDHE 660: History of Higher Education and EDFD 609: Cultural Context of Education, I gained an understanding of what equitable education looks like. For example, I learned in EDHE 660 that the Morrill Acts created the foundation of higher education in America. Through expanded legislation, higher education has evolved and shaped colleges into what we have today. In EDFD 609, I learned that when students feel as though they belong in academic spaces, it is a huge part of their academic and social development, which leads to student success. I also learned that student affairs professionals are important for supporting students and helping them navigate college experience.

Through applied experiences with FASTrack and the FedEx Student Athlete Success Center, I have gained a deeper understanding of the competency. For example, FASTrack is a living-learning community that supports first-year students' transition to college life, whereas the FedEx Student Athlete Success Center ensures that student athletes have access to the same resources as their peers.

As I move forward in my career, I will continue to develop the skills necessary to meet the needs of the students I serve.