



## Intergroup Dialogue

### What is Intergroup Dialogue?

Intergroup Dialogue is a seven-week program that provides a unique learning opportunity for AU students to engage on a range of identity topics including but not limited to: race, ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality, and faith. Housed in the Center for Diversity & Inclusion, dialogues are intergroup, gathering people from multiple backgrounds and identities for weekly, two-hour sustained dialogues for seven weeks.

The goal of Intergroup Dialogue is to:

- Engage across difference of perspective and identity;
- Foster intergroup community through a diversity of identities;
- Explore personal experience and societal issues;
- Provide tools for navigating difference on and off campus

The Center for Diversity & Inclusion utilizes the four-stage educational intergroup dialogue model that focuses on building relationships, exploring systemic group differences and similarities, examining controversial issues, and action planning and alliance building (Zúñiga, Nagda, Chesler, & Cytron-Walker, 2007). While each dialogue group has a topic, Intergroup Dialogue examines and explores multiple identities and the holistic student experience. Intergroup Dialogue encourages AU students to participate, regardless of identity, background, and experience in identity-related topics. Utilizing activities, videos, and timely current events as foundation, Intergroup Dialogue is a leading model for respectful and inclusive practices.

### What is the value of Intergroup Dialogue?

Students and faculty are searching for ways to discuss complex issues of identity and enhance and bridge learning in and outside of the classroom. The work directly ties to AU's commitment to provide "Leadership in a Changing World" as noted in the Strategic Plan. As President Kerwin mentioned in a recent [memo](#), these dialogues are crucial for enhancing campus climate.

### How can faculty get involved?

Faculty can support Intergroup Dialogue by:

- Promoting participant and facilitator applications to your students.
- Inviting Intergroup Dialogue to talk to your class for 5-15 minutes about the program.
- Offering course credit for your students' participation in Intergroup Dialogue.
- Serving as an Intergroup Dialogue faculty advisor. Advisors meet with facilitators weekly (electronically and/or in-person) during the seven-week program to help them process and plan their sessions.

Zúñiga, X., Nagda, B.A., Chesler, M. and Cytron-Walker, A. (2007). The four-stage design to intergroup dialogues. *Intergroup Dialogue in Higher Education: Meaningful Learning About Social Justice: ASHE Higher Education Report*, 32, (4), 26-30.