

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

The Prevention, Wellness, and Training committee of the Provost's Council for Student Mental Health anticipates students may need support in the lead-up to, during, and after the trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin for the death of George Floyd.

### Tangible ideas developed by the Prevention, Wellness, and Training committee

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 as the timeline for the trial becomes more clear
- 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 lead-up to, during, and after 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 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 upcoming trial**

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

As the trial proceeds and the community responds, 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. If you need mental health support, the University has many resources including:

- [BAAAM! - Black, African American, African Meeting space](#)
- [BIPOC Mental Health Collective](#)
- [Black Faculty & Staff Association](#)
- [Boynton Mental Health Clinic](#)
- [Multicultural Student Engagement](#)
- [Student Counseling Services](#)
- [Let's Talk](#)
- [Office of Student Affairs Care Program](#)

There are also many non-University resources available in the Twin Cities including:

- [Hennepin County, Mental health and substance use services](#)
  - Holistic, trauma-conscious, and healing-centered services; accepts public insurance, sliding fee scale
- [Kente Circle](#)
  - Black-owned community mental health clinic; accepts insurance
- [Lutheran Social Services \(LSS\), Military & Veteran Services](#)
  - Focused on veterans and family of veterans; accepts insurance
- [Minnesota CarePartner](#)
  - BIPOC-led and centered; accepts insurance
- [MN Mental Health Providers of Color Database, created by Larry Yang](#)
  - Search for providers by identity and specialty
- [Native American Community Clinic, Behavioral Health Services](#)
  - Native American-centered, all welcome; provides care regardless of ability to pay
- [NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center, Behavioral Health](#)
  - Multi-specialty health center serving North Minneapolis; accepts insurance and managed care plans, sliding fee scale
- [Walk-In Counseling Center](#)
  - Non-profit, non-religious, anonymous, no appointment necessary; free
- [Wilder Foundation, Mental Health & Wellness Services](#)
  - Culturally-appropriate and trauma-informed services; insurance accepted but not required

#### Questions?

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