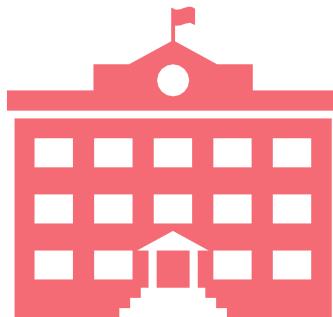


Dealing with Instructor Conflict for Students



Resolving Things Early

Often when we have problems, there are simple solutions if they are dealt with early on. Dalhousie has a wide range of resources to help. It is important to take the time to build strong connections with other students and faculty in your department. If one day you find yourself in a difficult situation having a strong support network of colleagues can be helpful.

Create Better Learning Opportunities

To create learning opportunities for yourself, you may sometimes be in situations that are uncomfortable. Being uncomfortable does not mean there are not learning opportunities. By leaning into the discomfort and stretching your comfort zone you can find opportunities to grow and succeed.

There may be times when you will not have a good match with an instructor/supervisor whether it be a personality clash, difference of opinion, or any number of reasons. You may feel your instructor/supervisor is impolite, abrupt, too serious, unclear, or random. The key to success in a course where you are not experiencing a good fit is a matter of separating liking and learning. Consider the steps below as an opportunity to create a better learning opportunity.



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902-494-2665



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Student
Advocacy
DSAS@DAL.CA



Human Rights
& Equity
Services
HREHP@DAL.CA
902-494-6672

Steps to Achieve a Better Learning Opportunity

STEPS:

ONE: EVALUATE	<p>Try to identify your instructor's unique style in teaching to narrow down what aspects are troubling you. It could be communication, marking, feedback, course materials. Ask yourself – What do I control? What is outside of my control?</p> <p>Remember: You cannot change anyone, but you can change how you experience situations.</p>
TWO: ACT	<p>You can control your learning experience by changing the way you “think” about your instructor and way you experience your instructor. You can adapt your:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ behavior and attitude by staying positive, ▸ avoiding eye rolling and yawning, ▸ participating in class, ▸ being friendly and open, ▸ arriving early for class, ▸ sitting up front in class, ▸ being engaged and prepared for class, ▸ understanding your course syllabus, and ▸ seeking to understand and not criticize. <p>Be generous with your tolerance and understanding by realizing instructors are people too with experiences and knowledge they are sharing.</p>
THREE: REFLECT	<p>Judging and criticizing can sometimes be our default, but by reflecting on your experience, attitudes, and assumptions you can focus your energy on your goals. By following steps one and two and reflecting on your situation you can be better positioned to ask for advice and accept constructive criticism. Try and get to know your instructor.</p> <p>You can learn from this experience and take it forward in your approach to future courses.</p>