

# TRAUMA-INFORMED TEACHING

AMY CHAN HILTON, PH.D.  
CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING & LEARNING (CETL)  
[amy.chanhilton@usi.edu](mailto:amy.chanhilton@usi.edu)


UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA

Photo by [Katie Moum](#) on [Unsplash](#)

1

## Why Trauma-informed Teaching?

Fully engage in their learning		
Trauma experiences	Prevalence of trauma	Inequity of trauma
Impacts to learning		



2

## Possible Impacts to Learning due to Trauma

- Decreased performance in coursework
- Inability to focus
- Change in behavior
- Reduced bandwidth to process information

3

## Trauma-informed Teaching Strategies

<b>Provide</b>	Consistency, structure, and clarity
<b>Create</b>	Sense of safety
<b>Build</b>	Trust: Instructor-student interactions
<b>Foster</b>	Community: Student-student interactions
<b>Offer</b>	Choice. Develop Empowerment
<b>Take</b>	Care of yourself

4

## Some Helpful Resources

Slides available at  
[bit.ly/TeachingResourcesCETL](https://bit.ly/TeachingResourcesCETL)

- [Trauma-Informed Teaching](#) (Univ of Georgia): Overview of trauma, its impact on learning, teaching strategies
- [Trauma-Aware Teaching Checklist](#) (Costa): Based on the 6 principles of trauma-informed care from SAMHSA
- [Crisis-Conscious Teaching Toolkit](#) (Purdue Ft. Wayne): 4 key things to consider when teaching during a crisis
- [Trauma-Informed Teaching](#) (Keesler, Indiana University)
- [Trauma-Informed Teaching and Learning](#) (UNC Greensboro)
- [Using Cognitive Empathy in the Classroom](#) (UNC Charlotte)
- [Pedagogy of Healing: Bearing Witness to Trauma and Resilience](#) (Imad, 2021): Suggestions for 13 actions professors and other educators can take to help promote students' mental health.
- [Leveraging the Neuroscience of Now](#) (Imad, 2020): 7 ways professors can help students thrive in class in times of trauma.
- [Hope Matters](#) (Imad, 2020): 10 teaching strategies to support students & help them learn during uncertainty.
- [Trauma-Informed Online Teaching](#) (Marquart, Carello, Creswell Báez, 2020)
- [How to humanize your online class, version 2.0](#) [Infographic] (Pacansky-Brock, 2020)

5

## Resources at USI

Slides available at  
[bit.ly/TeachingResourcesCETL](https://bit.ly/TeachingResourcesCETL)

- Dean of Students Office ([DOSO](#)) at USI  
UC 1256 | 812.464.1862
  - Concerned about a Student? Submit a [Care Team form](#)
  - [Financial Care Team](#)
- Counseling and Psychological Services ([CAPS](#))  
Orr Center 1051 | 812.464.1867 | [usi.caps@usi.edu](mailto:usi.caps@usi.edu)
- Public Safety at USI: 812.492.7777 and 812.464.1845 (non-emergency)

6