



DRIVE

Diversity, Representation and Inclusion for Value in Education

www.umassmed.edu/DRIVE

Systems Practice Guide:

Content Disclosures

Tips for Teaching Success

Background/Rationale

- Topics that may be upsetting should be disclosed to allow learners and instructors to prepare, and to support psychological safety.
- Content disclosures delivered immediately before upsetting material can produce more anxiety than they allay.
- Timing, framing, and offering alternate educational opportunities are key to successful content disclosures.

Provide advance notice – ideally in the syllabus – so that learners have time to prepare themselves and request accommodations, if needed.

Write it before you say it – most learners prefer written disclosures – so they have the opportunity to prepare.

Provide alternatives – Don't make learners decide between receiving course content or "missing out" to protect themselves.

Is the topic necessary? – if material evokes traumatic responses in learners, consider whether the educational goal can be reached in other ways.



Questions? Support? Suggestions for improvement?
Contact drive@umassmed.edu or use the QR code to share compliments and concerns

For additional resources, see: University of Michigan, Inclusive Teaching:
[An Introduction to Content Warnings and Trigger Warnings](#)



UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL