

Husker Dialogues FAQ

What is Husker Dialogues?

Husker Dialogues is a campus event for incoming first-year students about how to promote respect and understanding for multiple perspectives and identities in our university community. Because dialogue is a critical component of academic excellence, Husker Dialogues models ways for students to share and reflect upon their own stories and critically listen to and learn from their peers.

What will take place at Husker Dialogues?

Several students will share their personal stories from campus experiences. Following the performances, all students will participate in small group discussions.

Why does the university host Husker Dialogues?

Students' participation in this event during the first semester sets the expectation for all Huskers to be part of a respectful campus community that recognizes diverse perspectives and identities. As Chancellor Green described in 2016, "We strive for excellence and recognize that our differences make us strong. We respect and seek our inclusion of differences, realizing that we can learn from one another" (2016 Beliefs on Diversity and Inclusion). In an increasingly global society, it is important for students to gain experience interacting with individuals whose stories and experiences they don't share.

Is attendance required?

The university expects all first-year students to participate. Many first-year courses will require attendance as part of the curriculum.

How long will the event last?

On Thursday, Sept. 5, the Bob Devaney Center will open for seating at 6:30 p.m. The formal program will begin at 7 p.m. and will last until 8:30 p.m.

What do I do if I have class?

Please email huskerdialogues@unl.edu with a message explaining that you will be in class at that time. The reason for your absence will be passed along to your college's dean and instructors when the attendance list is shared.

Who will lead the conversations?

Trained faculty, staff and upper-class student volunteers will serve as Conversation Guides to help your group process the presentation and facilitate discussion. Conversation Guides should help group members acknowledge that each person's experience is unique and deserves respect.

Is talking about such personal topics uncomfortable?

Yes, it can be uncomfortable, but it is important to remember that there are no right or wrong answers – everything is based on personal experiences that make your story. Acknowledging the discomfort surrounding the conversations and exploring why they are uncomfortable can lead to a great discussion, too.

What if someone says something offensive?

Sometimes people say hurtful things. Understanding why someone has a different opinion than your own is not easy, but it's worth a try. Individuals speak from their own context, and through conversations can we try to build mutual respect.

