



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION COURSE CONTENT STANDARDS

Meeting the Noék Nmehomesek (Seven Grandfathers) Standards

All CPN coursework and educators will strive to model and teach the values of the Noék Nmehomesek.

Dbandewen | Love

Starting from the belief that all humans and our other-than-human relations have inherent value, and acknowledging the value of oneself, our teaching should show love:

- For the student's whole self.
- For the educator's whole self.
- For the content and materials.
- For the next Seven Generations and the ancestors.
- For the land from which the Potawatomi originated, on which Citizen Potawatomi is now located, and the land where the learning takes place.
- For all of our relations, human and other-than-human.

Demonstrated by:

- Committing adequate time to the preparation of content.
- Consistent and high expectations for individual student and class performance, as appropriate to their age and level.
- Creating room for students to ask questions and explore content based on their interests.
- Encouraging students' personal development alongside knowledge acquisition.
- Working to understand that students' and educators' emotions and personal histories inform engagement with each other and with content.
- Recognizing that learning is a collaborative process, and students will also teach those educators who are open and paying attention.

Mnadéndemwen | Respect

Starting from the belief that all our human and other-than-human relations have inherent value, and acknowledging the value of oneself, our teaching will show respect:

- For learners, whose background and pre-existing knowledge inform their education.
- For educators, who are professionals and experts in their field.
- For content and all primary source material, conventional and unconventional, which should be treated with care.
- For differing points of view and different ways of learning.
- For the source of course or lesson content, especially elders, and their for how content is delivered or shared.



Mbwakawen Wisdom

All content:

- Encourages critical thinking and engagement over repetition and memorization.
- Has a coherent content progression that facilitate students' learning journeys.
- Is appropriate for intended delivery format; online courses follow best practices for online education, and same for in-person.

All educators are encouraged to be discerning in materials where possible, accounting for whether content is appropriate for students.

Wédaséwen Bravery

All content:

- Does not shy away from difficult or sensitive content and handles it in an age-appropriate way.
- Provides ways for students to safely push boundaries beyond their comfort zones, through activities or content.

Educators:

- Push students beyond the bare minimum of state requirements to engage in higher level thinking.
- Invite students to ask questions and engage with materials and each other, while honoring that teachers may not know all the answers.
- Admit the limits of their knowledge and ask for help when they need.
- Embrace the inherent worthiness and fundamental sufficiency of themselves and encourage learners to do the same.

Gwékwadzewen Honesty

Educators should strive to:

- Be willing to admit when they do not know all the answers, and search with students for those answers.
- Be willing to examine personal bias and bias in the curriculum to inform students' approach to the material.
- Honestly represent the sources that inform their knowledge, be they elders, community members, academics, or otherwise, and the limits of their knowledge.

Gdemagéndemwen Humility

Curriculum:

- Is easily adjustable for teachers to adapt based on their classes; teachers have room to invite and incorporate student, community, and family feedback.

Educators should:

- Admit the limits of their knowledge and ask for help when they need.
- Recognize the talent and strengths of the community and drawing on experts where appropriate.

Débwéwen Truth

- Content is factually correct and consistent with other sources of knowledge on the topic, unless there is compelling evidence other knowledge sources are wrong.
- Educators are committed to facing even uncomfortable facts.



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