

## Interdisciplinarity

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### Learning Objectives

- Define interdisciplinary and describe why it is important in research
- Define key terms related to diversity
- Describe the importance of diversity in research
- Define implicit bias and provide examples

### Interdisciplinary Research

How do you define interdisciplinary? Is it context dependent? Consider the following terms when coming up with your definition: disciplinary, multidisciplinary, and transdisciplinary.

Based on your knowledge of interdisciplinarity or after a quick search, what is the value of interdisciplinary approaches in general? Support your response with a recent news article that highlights the importance and relevance of this approach. Are there any challenges that would not benefit from an interdisciplinary approach, or are interdisciplinarity approaches always advantageous?

Interdisciplinary research is becoming extremely popular and valuable. Why are interdisciplinary approaches in medical science research and healthcare desirable? Provide an example.

### Diversity

Diversity refers to difference and thus individuals are not diverse; however, groups of individuals can be diverse/possess diversity. What are some examples of dimensions of diversity?

In addition to dimensions of diversity, you should be aware of and define terms such as diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice. How would you explain these terms clearly and concisely to someone who was trying to learn about the difference in terms, but also how they are related.

Why does diversity matter in science? To answer this question, think about the complex (population-level) problems scientists must solve. Also search some historical examples where diversity was not considered in science and comment on the impact this had or continues to have.

What do you know about diversity in diabetes? Consider animal or human studies to support your response. Some examples of dimensions to explore include gender, sex, and race.

### Implicit/unconscious bias

Everyone has biases; therefore, we need to focus on recognizing them and responding appropriately. What is implicit bias and what does it look like? What are the impacts of implicit bias, beyond how we treat each other? Supplement with some examples.



**Think About It (for discussion in lecture):** Research needs to be transformed to enhance the lives of both men and women around the globe. Based on what you have learned from this case, brainstorm ways that this could be accomplished.