

## Social Identities

The attributes below are some examples of social identities in the context of western culture. These are the identities that are assigned to us by society. They influence how the world views us. They affect how we are socialized and how we react and respond to each other.

Review the group memberships in the Privileged Social Group Category and the Targeted Social Group Category. If there are additional social identities you would like to consider, add them to the chart.

<b>Privileged Social Groups</b>	<b>Social Identity Construct</b>	<b>Targeted Social Groups</b>
30's to early 50's	<b>AGE</b>	Younger; Older
Able-Bodied	<b>ABILITY</b>	A physical, mental, emotional, and/or learning disability; chronic illness
White	<b>RACE</b>	Person of color
Male	<b>BIOLOGICAL SEX</b>	Female, Intersex
Behavior or appearance reinforces the Gender Binary System, i.e. either masculine or feminine as the standard	<b>GENDER IDENTITY AND GENDER EXPRESSION</b>	Any behavior or appearance that does not reinforce the Gender Binary System (including, but not limited to: Gender Variant, Gender Queer; Ambiguous, Androgynous)
Heterosexual	<b>SEXUAL ORIENTATION</b>	Gay, Lesbian; Bisexual
Upper class; Upper Middle class; Middle class	<b>CLASS</b>	Working class; near poverty level; living in poverty
Graduate or college degree; Private schooling	<b>EDUCATIONAL LEVEL</b>	High school degree; Public schooling
Christian	<b>RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY</b>	Non-Christian
U.S. Born	<b>NATIONAL ORIGIN</b>	Born in a country other than the U.S.
"American"; Western European heritage	<b>ETHNICITY/CULTURE</b>	Non-Western Culture or heritage
Fit's society image of attractive, beautiful, handsome	<b>SIZE/APPEARANCE</b>	Perceived by others as overweight; extremely skinny, too tall, short, not physically attractive
Legally married in a heterosexual relationship	<b>MARITAL STATUS</b>	Single, divorced; widowed; in a same sex-partnership;
Suburban; valued region of the U.S.	<b>GEOGRAPHICAL REGION</b>	Rural; urban; less valued region of the U.S.
President, Dean, Director, Faculty, Supervisor, Manager	<b>HIERARCHICAL/ POSITIONALITY LEVEL</b>	Subordinate; new hire, temporary; assistants, intern
Proficient in the "Queen's English"; use of proper English	<b>LANGUAGE</b>	First language is not English; have an accent

Adapted from: Adams, M., Bell, L. A., & Griffin, P. (Eds.). (2016). *Teaching for diversity and social justice* (3rd ed.).



