

Grounding Retreat: Example Agenda

The Grounding Retreat helps academic programs establish a shared foundation for engaging in curriculum decolonization. The goal of the retreat is to build shared understanding of decolonization and its relationship to Indigenous sovereignty and futurity, while creating the conditions for team members to engage with Indigenous knowledges, communities, and one another “in a good way” (Western University, 2025; Ball & Janyst, 2008).

Outcomes

- Articulate your program’s relationship to decolonization and to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s *Calls to Action*
- Identify shared unlearning and decolonization goals and need supports
- Develop a shared commitment to sustained unlearning and decolonization work

Sample Pre-Work

Length	Activities
35 mins	Indigenous Teaching & Learning Series: Module 1 Watch Decolonizing the Academy from Dr. Candace Brunette-Debassige’s Indigenous Teaching and Learning Series.

Sample Half-Day Agenda

Length	Activities
20 mins	Introduction and Land Acknowledgment
20 mins	Grounding Our Work Building on the pre-work, this foundational exercise defines academic decolonization and its relationship to Indigenous ways of knowing, the academy, and your discipline
30 mins	Why Are We Called to Act? Interactive discussion on: Why are we decolonizing? To which TRC <i>Calls to Action</i> are we responsible? What reforms are demanded by marginalized members of your field?
15 mins	Resource Share Attendees share remaining reflections on the pre-work and any essential readings, learning, or resources that will inform future decolonization work.

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15 mins	Break
40 mins	Priority Setting Participants review their pre-work reflections to identify shared decolonization and unlearning priorities for their team. What work will result in lasting change for future generations? Which ones address the <i>Calls to Action</i> ?
30 mins	Setting the Conditions for Future Work Through individual reflection and shared discussion, the group will identify Identify practices and supports that will enable meaningful engagement and sustain unlearning work over time.
10 mins	Summary and next steps