

Themed Events

Updated 2023

Choosing attire, decorations, slogans, music, or foods related to a certain theme may be considered when planning an event, activity or party. However, many popular themes are offensive and can be insulting to specific individuals or groups.

Themes addressing identities such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, socioeconomic class, or geographic region and are not used in a celebratory or educational manner should be reconsidered. If you plan on using a theme for an event, ensure that it is appropriate and not demeaning to any person, group, or population. Please consider consulting a Student Engagement staff member who will advise you on representing the individual or group authentically. You may also choose to be more general in your theme (e.g. beach party instead of lu'au). If there is even a slight chance that the theme will mimic, mock or stereotype a particular individual or group, please consider its impact and/or select a different theme. If you would like assistance in evaluating your theme, please contact your SOA or GLA.