



Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

AUCD network members regularly convene around common topical interests to share information, engage in respectful dialogue, and generate new ideas.

What do SIGs do?

SIGs provide an opportunity for network members to meet and discuss critical topics in the disability field. SIGs are led by a Chair or Co-Chairs. SIGs meet virtually throughout the year and in-person annually at the AUCD Conference in Washington, D.C. Because SIGs are driven by the interests of AUCD members, new SIGs may emerge while SIGs that have run their course may disband. Occasionally AUCD leadership may engage SIGs to share evidence-based knowledge and information for policymakers, should the SIG topic be of current interest in federal legislative or executive efforts.

What are the benefits of joining a SIG?

SIG members meet and network with others who share similar interests, providing access to a wealth of experience that can be applied through collaborative discussion, brainstorming, problem-solving, development of educational resources, or development of grant proposals and/or program development. Members play a role in identifying and addressing priorities and emerging needs, which contributes to the ongoing growth and impact of AUCD's national network. A SIG Chair might include the SIG in a grant proposal as a national community of practice, which (if funded) may provide additional resources to support the group. SIGs provide opportunities for leadership roles (such as SIG Chair) within the national network. All SIG members are encouraged to actively participate and engage in SIG opportunities to address priorities through discussion, developing/sharing resources, and periodic meetings. Active participation contributes tremendously to the effectiveness of the SIG.

Who can join a SIG?

SIGs are open to all network members, as well as external partners and constituents. Emerging Leaders are encouraged to participate.

How does someone join a SIG?

Anyone can join one or multiple SIGs. If a member is interested in joining a SIG, they can visit [AUCD - SIGs](#), follow the link to the SIG(s) of interest and click on the link to subscribe to the e-mail listserv for that SIG. By joining the listserv, you are committing to being a member of the SIG.

How does a SIG differ from a Council?

Council Chairs sit on AUCD's Board of Directors, contributing to the overall leadership and direction of the organization. This is not the case with SIG Chairs. SIGs focus on specific disability-related topics such as employment or assistive technology. Councils have a broader focus that aligns with the specialties of the AUCD network and can be applied to any disability-related topic: research and evaluation, advocacy and inclusion, cultural competence, community education and dissemination, and training.