

# Promoting the Creation of Accessible Classrooms at UIC

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## Project Purpose

The development of a training that teaches university instructors at UIC how to create accessible classrooms for disabled students.

## Project Process and Results

The Student Advisory Board (SAB) of the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Persons with Disabilities (CCSPD) recognized that UIC instructors often 1) do not create classroom environments that embrace disabled students and 2) interact with said students in discriminatory ways. To address these issues, the SAB created a training to inform instructors about the disability community and accessible practices for classrooms. Disabled students determined the material and language included in the training. Project co-leaders contacted university entities to disseminate the training. During the 2017-18 academic year, 2 trainings were completed, and more trainings were confirmed for the 2018-19 academic year. Two UIC administrative offices also saw the training and expressed interest in institutionalizing it.

## Project Components

- Presentation Slides
- Resource Handout
- Feedback Survey
- Walkthrough for UIC Administration

### Slides Breakdown

**28 total slides**

- Understanding Disability
- Disability in the Classroom
- Practicing Access in Your Classroom
- Letters of Accommodations
- Wrapping Up

### Handout Breakdown

- List of Further Resources to Create Disability-Friendly and Inclusive Spaces
- List of Practices Used to Create Accessible Classrooms
  - Before Each Class
  - First Day of Class
  - During Each Class
  - Curriculum Planning

## UIC Entities Interested

Anthropology; Biological Sciences; Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science; College of Medicine; School of Public Health; Office for Access and Equity; Office of Diversity; Graduate College; Disability Resource Center

## Future Project Development

- Institutionalize the training
- Develop handout into handbook
- Create website with training material
- Video record training
- Train more trainers

## Future Directions for Research

To conduct an ethnography of professors at UIC regarding perspectives about disability, accessibility, and inclusion in the classroom.

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