

Inclusive Post-Secondary Education Instructor Handout

The Integrated Post-Secondary Education Society of Alberta (IPSESA) was founded in 1992 at the University of Calgary. We have since expanded to St. Mary's University in 2006, and to SAIT in 2022. We offer an Inclusive Post-Secondary Education (IPSE) Program that supports adults with developmental disabilities as they engage with classes and campus life at all of these campuses.

What is Inclusive Education?

The Inclusive Education program supports adults with developmental disabilities in pursuing meaningful post-secondary experiences. It offers personalized opportunities to engage in academic, social, and campus life, including attending lectures, completing assignments, and participating in groupwork. Depending on their strengths and goals, students may participate in standard class activities or follow adapted approaches that provide the right level of challenge and support. Through inclusive learning environments, the program helps students build confidence, develop essential life and career skills, and feel a true sense of belonging in the post-secondary community.

Benefits of Inclusive Education

There are many benefits of Inclusive Education, for our students, you as an instructor, and for post-secondary institutions. For you as an instructor, inclusive education promotes collaborative learning, supports inclusive teaching practices, and provides chances for creative approaches to learning. In the classroom, our students provide new perspectives for in-class discussions and groupwork. Inclusive Education also helps create a more diverse and inclusive environment at your institution and the greater community.

Our Students




IPSE students are fully registered members of their post-secondary institution and are formally enrolled as audit students, meaning they participate in courses without receiving academic credit. Participation is flexible and guided by individual learning goals - whether engaging in discussions, contributing to group work, taking in class exams or completing class notes. IPSE students demonstrate a high level of independence, attending classes on their own and actively contributing to a respectful and engaged learning environment.

Role of Facilitators

Every IPSE student works with an Education Facilitator. Our team of Education Facilitators works with IPSE students and modifies coursework to be accessible to them. This includes modifying lecture materials, assignments, or exams.

Before an IPSE student takes a class, Facilitators work extensively with them to prepare them for the class. This includes going over classroom expectations and etiquette, such as attendance, disruptiveness, and appropriate behaviour. If any issues do arise with an IPSE student in class, Facilitators are always available to you as an instructor to help address any problems or concerns. Facilitators are also available to collaborate with you as an instructor in working with an IPSE student.

Your Role as an Instructor

 UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY	Before the start of classes you will receive an email from a Facilitator from the University of Calgary letting you know an IPSE student is enrolled in your class and requesting your signature on an audit form.
 ST MARY'S UNIVERSITY	Before the start of classes, you will receive an email from a Facilitator requesting your approval to have an IPSE student in your class. Once you approve, you will be sent an audit form to fill out by the a Facilitator.
 SAIT	Before the start of classes you will be contacted about potentially having an IPSE student in your class. Our students then choose which classes they want to register in from this pre-approved list.

Inclusivity is our main goal, and your role as an instructor helps create a welcoming and supportive classroom environment. We encourage and appreciate when instructors allow IPSE students to participate in as much or as little of the class as aligns with their learning goals. At the same time, we fully understand the time constraints and demands instructors face, and we aim to minimize any additional responsibilities. A dedicated Facilitator manages all course modifications, and your support—such as grading, meeting during office hours, or providing feedback—is no more than what you already offer to other students. IPSE students gain valuable experience from being part of the class and truly appreciate the opportunity to engage and learn alongside their peers.