

Dear UCSB Disability Community and Allies,

As summer comes to a close and the Fall quarter begins in one month, we at CODE are making preparations for a project that aims to transform campus culture and promote disability justice in every area of student life. With your cooperation and assistance, we can achieve our goal of tangibly improving the lives of all disabled students at UCSB this coming year and in the years to come.

During the past two years, students have experienced extreme frustration, anxiety, unpredictability, and immense difficulty transitioning from online back to in-person learning. With immunocompromised and disabled people having their health, especially at risk, many of us agree that we need comprehensive guidance on which resources could provide much-needed mutual aid to our disabled community on our campus.

We believe all UC students must work together on building a strong community among disabled students on their campuses, but ultimately advocacy must begin right where we are now. This is why the UCSB Associated Students' Commission on Disability Equity (A.S. CODE) has decided to establish a coalition on universal accessibility called Accessibility, Diversity, Advocacy Coalition (ADAC). This student-facilitated coalition will allow the Commission to expand its efforts in previous years to strengthen cross-disability solidarity, create leadership opportunities, and grow welcoming spaces for disability community care.

If you are interested in joining the ADA Coalition, please fill out this quick [Google Interest Form!](#)

This student-led coalition will be headed by CODE's general members interested in advocating with AS Executive Officers, DSP students, and allies from the community at large. Of course, we will ensure that disabled people of other historically marginalized and underrepresented groups are the leaders of the ADA Coalition's branch of CODE. Everyone is welcome to join CODE as a general member and help out with these efforts.

All community members regardless of where they are in their disability journey or access needs should be able to access and enjoy every resource, classroom, workspace, event activity, orientation, etc. But tangible change only occurs when everyone in our collective community acts in some capacity to understand and address the importance of universal access/design, community care through education, and ADA Compliance. Thus, CODE is committed to working with campus faculty, staff, and our general members to monitor and contribute to this new coalition's progress.

Now more than ever before, your collective participation is instrumental for this vision to be a reality. We all have unique lived experiences which will facilitate these valuable discussions. We need your help to further strengthen and amplify our collective vision for transformative disability justice and universal design for learning.

The ultimate goal for this communal effort is to create a campus disability community resource directory for current and future students, staff, and their loved ones. CODE hopes that the planning and implementation of this effort will work to help our campus's future endeavors to establish and grow a Disability Cultural Resource Center at UCSB.

Tentative Focus Subdivisions of the ADAC include:

1. Facilities Maintenance and Accessibility Team: campus walks to determine physical accessibility and ADA violations in housing and university event venues, meetings with administration and housing staff to relay complaints, emergency protocols, staff training, and violations
2. Disabled Students Program Liaison Team: meetings with DSP to improve and expand existing support services, restructuring ableist course registration and academic systems, promoting DSP to provide visibility and education, and improving current and ongoing funding
3. Basic Needs Team: centralized acquisition and distribution of basic needs such as housing and food resources, financial resources, menstrual products, COVID-19 supplies

4. Disability Health Advocacy Team: advocacy for students facing ableism from Student Health, educating SHS staff and doctors on disability justice in medicine, providing resources on disability mental wellbeing and sexual health
5. UC Campus-Wide Networking and Building Solidarity Team: promoting civic engagement in our institutional culture on our campuses and of the larger UC system
6. Transitional Support Team: advising fellow incoming and returning college students and staff through our collective and unique lived experiences with diagnosed or undiagnosed disabilities
7. Experiences transitioning from virtual learning to in-person learning, ensuring we sustain and implement the pros while thoroughly discussing the cons, and having an in-depth discussion of how our lives during the pandemic
8. Employment and Vocational Services/Career Development and Post Graduation Team: discussing long-term career development goals and improved career support services and opportunities

Regardless of whether or not you're diagnosed or self-identified/diagnosed, undiagnosed, or whether or not you're a student registered in our campus's disability student services program, we invite *all* disabled students and allies of diverse backgrounds to join in solidarity with us! Your experience, assets, and capabilities are valid and valuable to us. We urgently want to connect with you!

In solidarity,
Jay Shreedhar, Sophia Lee-Park, and CODE's Executive Board