Project Overview

If you want to do a project (or talk to an instructor about the possibility),

<u>**By Monday, Feb 7th**</u>**:**

1. <u>sign up</u> for a 20-meeting slot with an instructor
2. <u>fill out this short form</u> to prepare for your meeting

Why do a project?

We have designed several projects with the goal of giving students valuable opportunities to…

➢ Produce a tangible document to support the JEDI component of their eventual job applications
➢ Learn more about a JEDI topic they're passionate about
➢ Explore how JEDI topics relate to and can enrich the impact of their research
➢ Develop tools they can use to support themselves and others during grad school
➢ Learn about best-practices for academic leadership (e.g., hiring, admissions, research group culture….)
➢ Have a positive impact on the CSD, SCS, or CMU community

…all with the support of course staff! :)

Also, we can help translate your work to positive impact: we can host your project on the course website (with your permission), connect you with people to whom you can present your ideas, or help you brainstorm other ways in which your work can be translated to impact.

Project format

Projects can be done individually or in a group of your choice. We recommend students do their project over the 6 weeks of the course, but this timeline can be flexible upon request.

Instructor support: An instructor will be assigned to guide you throughout your project (in the form, students can request a particular instructor, but instructors will be assigned based on relevant expertise). This instructor will meet with you regularly throughout your project, up to 20 minutes per week (meeting schedule can be determined on a case-by-case basis). Instructors will support students in their projects as unconditionally as possible, and can do so by providing guidance, recommending and securing materials and resources, connecting you with experts.

Expectations: At the outset of your project, you will work with your instructor to establish expectations for what you will get done by the conclusion of the project. These expectations will generally consist of producing a deliverable item, but this will vary across projects.

Suggested projects

➢ **Make a JEDI guide or tutorial for computer scientists.** For example, it could be on how to inclusively / accessibly design and give presentations, write papers, or teach a technical subject. Tutorials can be given at conferences, and guides can be a great resource to post on your website!

➢ **Write a self-guide.** Write down steps or strategies you can use throughout your PhD to handle difficult situations. For example, you might document steps and strategies you can use to identify your rights and advocate for your boundaries in collaborations, advising relationships, and other areas. Such guides can be helpful to share with friends!

➢ **Propose an initiative.** Maybe you see an opportunity to make our department –or field more broadly – more welcoming. We can arrange for you to pitch the initiative to the DEI committee, or connect you with other campus groups that facilitate such initiatives.

➢ **Write (or record as a video / podcast) an op-ed, blog post, or critique** of something JEDI-related. We can post this on our course website, or we can connect you with other methods of publishing your work in our department / at CMU.

➢ **Design a web app or other online resource** that educates people on a JEDI topic or issue.

➢ **Read a book and have a discussion about it.** Feel free to invite friends who are not in the class! The instructors can recommend a book, come up with discussion questions, and/or facilitate the discussion.

➢ **Contribute a module to the course or write another piece of curriculum.** This is a great opportunity to practice incorporating inclusive teaching practices into a curriculum (even one for a technical class!). If you develop a course module for this class (or part of one), it may be used in future years!

➢ **Make a JEDI-related creative piece**, maybe a piece of artwork, creative writing, a computer program. We can display this our course website, or find another venue to display it!

Want to do a project but don't like these options? You can design your own!

Do steps 1 and 2 at the top, and during that meeting, the instructor can help you design a project. To get you started, here are some questions you can ask yourself to help brainstorm a project idea:

➢ Is there a topic that you want to know more about?

➢ Is there a problem or type of situation you wish you knew how to address?

➢ Are there parts of your research you feel should be inspected through a DEI lens?

➢ Is there a skill you want to build in anticipation of your post-graduation plans?