

# Audit Instructors' Attitudes and Perceived Competency Toward College Students with Intellectual Disabilities

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## Introduction

The University of Tennessee's FUTURE Program is a two-year training experience to support young adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) transition successfully into adulthood. The Fall 2018 Audit Instructor Training gave instructors from different departments at the University of Tennessee the opportunity to come together to learn about IDD, differentiated instruction, and their FUTURE student before the semester started to help the students succeed in the classroom.

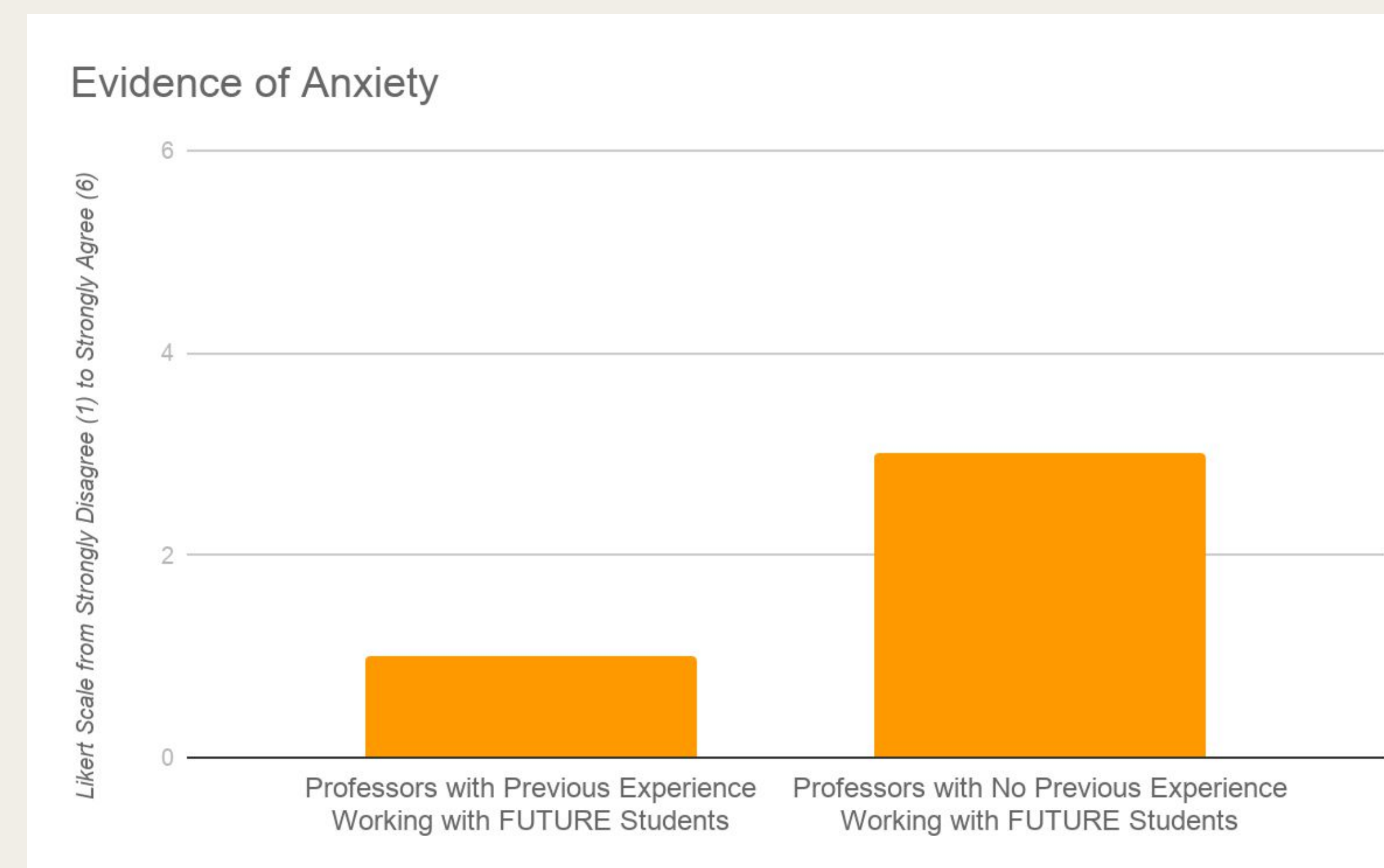
## Purpose

The purpose of this study is to: (a) determine instructors' attitudes and perceived competencies toward college students with intellectual disabilities; and (b) assess the effectiveness of a newly developed Audit Instructor Training program that aims to teach professors about differentiated instruction and general strategies for working with students with Intellectual Disability Disorder (IDD).

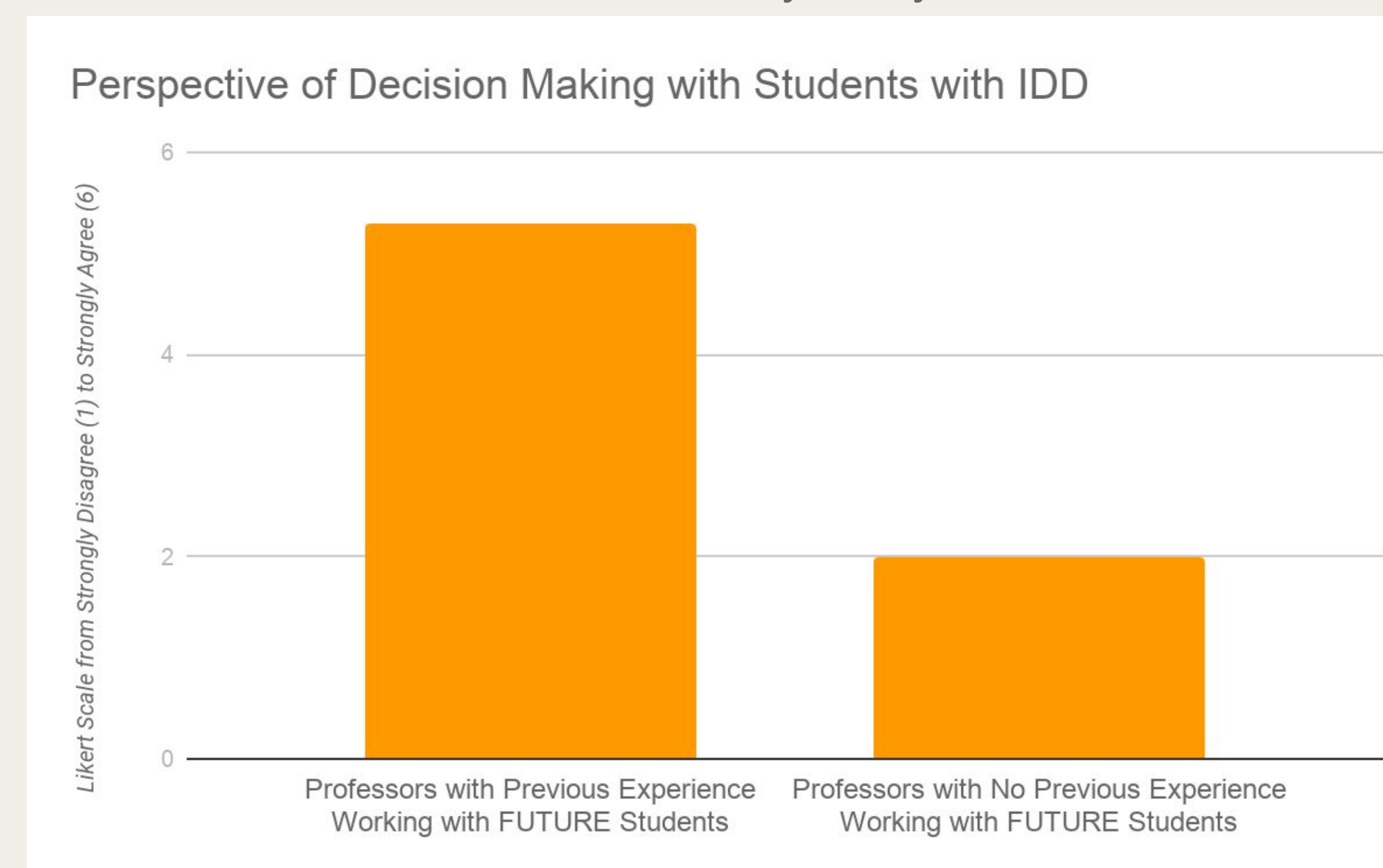
## Methods

**Participants** – From 14 different departments, about 25 professors that had FUTURE students enrolled in one of their undergraduate courses were invited to a training program in Fall 2018.

**Instrumentation** – Members of the FUTURE staff administered the Community Living Attitude Scale-Intellectual Disability (CLAS-ID) survey to professors and Graduate Teaching Assistants to determine attitudes about students classified with IDD in the classroom (Henry, Keys, & Jopp, 1998). Audit instructors completed the CLAS-ID at the beginning of the fall semester just after initial training, and their results will serve as a pre-test measure of their attitudes about students with IDD in the classroom. The same assessment measure will be given at the end of the Fall 2018 semester to measure any changes in attitudes or feelings of competency based on the experience of having a student with IDD in their classroom. The pretest results from the CLAS-ID survey are shown here.



"I am anxious about have a person with Intellectual Disability in my class."



"The opinions of a person with Intellectual Disability should carry more weight than those of family members and professionals in decisions affecting that person."

Previously had FUTURE Students in Class	Attitudes	Competency	Training Effectiveness
YES	3.12 "Disagree somewhat"	3.00 "Disagree Somewhat"	3.00 "Disagree Somewhat"
NO	2.87 "Disagree Somewhat"	3.00 "Disagree Somewhat"	4.11 "Agree Somewhat"

It is important to note that the questions regarding "attitudes" and "competency" were phrased negatively. Therefore, answers denoting a "disagreement" reflects positive attitudes and competency toward students with IDD.

## Results

Initial results from the CLAS-ID survey show that a majority of professors demonstrated generally positive attitudes toward students with IDD following the training in Fall 2018. All professors reported that the training was helpful in preparing them and increased their feelings of competency. Specifically, every professor who had not had FUTURE students before scored a 6 or "Strongly Agree" to the statement "I found the Audit Instructor Training helpful and resourceful". The means of total CLAS-ID scores from the two groups were compared through a t test; however, results were not statistically significant though they were in the predicted direction. The lack of significance may be due to the small sample size. As more surveys are collected, significant results might be observed.

## Discussion

The impact of the FUTURE Fall 2018 Audit Instructor Training is ongoing. Audit instructors will complete the CLAS-ID assessment at the end of the fall semester and their post scores will be analyzed and compared to these preliminary results. The information gathered from the pre and post CLAS-ID scores will shape subsequent research and allow for information to be communicated across campus in order to collectively support the FUTURE students and their academic success. In order to share the results and best practices gathered through this Audit Instructor Training, we will use digital content, professional presentations and workshops, as well as peer-reviewed literature.

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