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Headquartered in the Midwest, the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) includes the Big Ten Universities plus the University of Chicago. As world-class research institutions with nearly 50,000 faculty, we have found much common ground and vast opportunities for collaboration.

Meet Your Colleagues

Relationships of trust and respect between CIC colleges and departments are keys to successful partnerships. Faculty from similar CIC departments often meet by telephone, videoconference, or while attending annual professional conferences to share experiences and identify opportunities to work together.

Over time, these informal academic networks have fostered successful activities in Engineering, Nursing, Political Science, Women’s Studies, Asian American Studies, American Indian Studies, and several other disciplines.

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Mentor and Recruit Diverse Students

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Join Them in Academic Collaborations

In 2005, the CIC Deans of Arts & Sciences launched an effort to establish a voluntary, systematic method of sharing courses across the curriculum to enhance access to specialized graduate and low enrollment offerings for all participating CIC universities and their students. In the first two years of the pilot, almost 40 courses were shared online or by videoconference including dozens of less commonly taught languages (LCTLs) and graduate seminars in area studies, Chemical Informatics, English, History, Political Methodologies, and Speech & Hearing Sciences.

Faculty enjoy sharing courses via CourseShare for the chance to collaborate with respected peers at CIC institutions, expand course enrollment with talented students, employ new technologies, fill curricular gaps, preserve specialized courses, and strengthen student recruitment efforts.

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In 1996, the CIC Board of Chairs formed a committee to identify a systematic method of sharing courses across member institutions. An early concept developed by the Committee on Distance Education and the Committee on Teaching Technology paved the way for the CIC Faculty Collaborations program. It’s an easy way to share courses—CIC faculty just share digital course materials. CIC shared courses with enrolled students; instructors in other departments offer them to their students. The CIC Summer Research Opportunities Program was established.

In 2001, the CIC Committee on Distance Education was dissolved, but the CIC Faculty Collaborations digital course-sharing initiative continued. In its first year, CIC faculty shared 36 courses. In the second year, 123 courses were shared. The number of shared courses has continued to grow. To use this program, a faculty member needs only to submit an electronic course syllabus and the CICNet system will host it online.

In early 2006, the CIC Board of Chairs reconstituted the Committee on Distance Education, now known as the CIC Committee on Distance Learning. The committee is a standing committee of the CIC Presidents’ Council that monitors the use and development of distance learning at CIC institutions. The committee also assists CIC faculty in developing effective distance learning courses and materials.

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