

# THE ODYSSEY PROJECT

## FREE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COURSES

The Odyssey Project offers free, credit-bearing courses from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign for income-eligible community members. Odyssey students can earn up to eight transferable college credits in an environment designed to support non-traditional students, especially those whose education has been interrupted for whatever reason.



Whether you're looking to complete a college degree or continue your quest to be a lifelong learner, the Odyssey Project can help you rediscover your passion for learning and give you the skills you need to advance your educational and professional goals.

## MORE THAN JUST CLASSES

As an Odyssey student, you'll take classes on Literature, Philosophy, Art History, and US History. Education in the humanities can help you expand your skills in critical thinking, problem solving, knowledge-based decision-making and empathy. You'll also learn fundamental writing skills to support you after you leave the program. The courses are taught by University of Illinois instructors and are designed with students like you, who may have been out of school for a while, in mind.

### Odyssey offers the support you need to succeed, including:



- Free textbooks and course materials
- Access to computers
- Dinner on class nights
- Bus fare to and from class
- Academic and career advising
- Extra tutoring outside class
- Help accessing community resources
- A safe community for learning and discussion



**Humanities Research  
Institute**  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

[go.illinois.edu/odyssey](https://go.illinois.edu/odyssey)

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## IMAGINE YOUR SUCCESS

The Odyssey Project can make a difference in your life, whether you decide to seek additional educational opportunities or want to improve your skills and job opportunities. 88% of recent Odyssey students have **continued their education beyond Odyssey** and 75% of students have **pursued new career development opportunities**.

But life is about more than just school and work. Here's what else recent Odyssey students have told us.

## Odyssey Facts and Figures



- 50% of students reported that the Odyssey Project helped them **improve their financial stability**.
- 96% of students believed they **improved their writing skills**.
- 79% of students felt a **stronger sense of community**.
- 87% of students **increased civic engagement**.
- 84% of students said their family's **perception of learning was positively impacted** by their involvement in Odyssey.
- 92% of students reported **improved feelings of hope**.
- 87% of students felt an **improved sense of empowerment**.

## IMAGINE YOUR ODYSSEY

**"The Odyssey Project changed my views on how smart I thought I was."**

"In my work, I got an increase in my position, a raise, and more power. I think that comes from more affirmation and learning to speak for myself."

**"To have professors who have your best interest at hand and genuinely care about your success walking beside you in the process, keeping in contact with you and engaging with you both inside and outside the classroom, gave me great appreciation for the program."**

"Odyssey Project is necessary; it offers the essential critical thinking skills needed to get the most out of every future learning experience; it offers the education needed to have informed social discussions; and it offers the writing skills to help you to communicate your thoughts on anything. Odyssey Project is the universal learning experience that universities were created for."



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