



STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES

**Prepared for the
Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Governors**

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WHERE ACCESS AND SUCCESS ARE POSSIBLE



OVERVIEW OF STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES

Commitment to the WSU Strategic Plan

Strategic Focus Area: Student Success

- ❖ Supportive relationships for students-instructional experiences in a setting where students' needs are understood and where proactive, engaged advising occurs

Strategic Focus Area: Diversity and Inclusion

- ❖ Inclusive environment that values and embraces the diversity of all its members



- WHAT WE DO

- ❖ Evaluate eligibility for disability-related services and accommodations, determine reasonable accommodations for students, provide advocacy, guidance, and on-going support to students with disabilities
- ❖ Provide federally-mandated direct support services to students with disabilities
- ❖ Consult and collaborate with university faculty, staff and administrators to provide technical assistance, advice and information on providing students with equal access to educational activities and opportunities
- ❖ Serve as an information and referral service on disability issues
- ❖ Provide an accessible and welcoming atmosphere for students with disabilities

Use of ***Accommodate***, an online student management system



- STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES TEAM
 - ❖ THREE DISABILITY SPECIALISTS
 - Student caseloads of 300+
 - Handle 100-175 accommodation letters per semester
 - ❖ ACCOMMODATION SUPPORT SPECIALIST
 - Supports deaf and hard of hearing students
 - Responsible for setting up remote CART services and C-print captioning
 - ❖ INTAKE COORDINATOR AND TESTING COORDINATOR
 - Schedules appointments for new student requests
 - Coordinates and administers student exams; 1225 exams for Fall 2015; 38% increase in 4 years
 - ❖ ASSISTIVE TECHNICIAN
 - Provides alternate format for printed materials to students; 408 requests Winter 2016- 25% increase from Winter 2015



- SDS TEAM REFLECTS OUR GROWTH

- ❖ Accommodation Support Specialist works with our deaf and hard of hearing population:

<u>SEMESTER</u>	<u># OF STUDENTS SUPPORTED</u>
Winter 2014	2
Fall 2014	5
Winter 2015	10
Fall 2015	12
Winter 2016	11

- ❖ 82% increase in the number of deaf and hard of hearing students served in 2 years
- ❖ Expanded the types of services and delivery modes to meet students' needs



- WHO WE SERVE

- ❖ We serve WSU students with documented disabilities that substantially affect a major life activity such as walking, communicating, learning, or seeing. A significant number of those we support have invisible disabilities.

 - Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders

 - Psychological and Psychiatric Disorders

 - Blindness/Visual Impairments

 - Deaf/Hard of Hearing

 - Learning and Cognitive Disabilities

 - Medical Conditions

 - Physical Disabilities

 - Temporary Disabilities



- WHO WE SERVE: A CLOSER LOOK

1038 Active students

- ❖ 71% Undergraduate students
- ❖ 29% Graduate students (including professional programs)
- ❖ 4% Medical students
- ❖ 8% Veterans
- ❖ 334 students requested Winter 2016 accommodations
- ❖ Diagnoses are in alignment with national trends: prevalence of learning disabilities, ADHD and psychological/psychiatric conditions



- STUDENT DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES
 - ❖ Testing Accommodations: Extended test time; distraction-reduced environments
 - ❖ Assistive Technology: Text-to-speech software; speech-to-text software; enlarged text; SDS videophone
 - ❖ Use of digital voice recorders and LiveScribe pens for recording lectures
 - ❖ Notetakers
 - ❖ Interpreters
 - ❖ Remote CART services
 - ❖ C-print captioning services
 - ❖ Furniture requests
 - ❖ SDS provides reasonable academic adjustments to ensure no student is subject to discrimination on the basis of disability



- SDS COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

- ❖ University Advising
- ❖ Academic Success Center
- ❖ OMVAE: Office of Military and Veterans Academic Excellence
- ❖ APEX
- ❖ WSU School of Medicine
- ❖ WSU Law School
- ❖ Office of Teaching and Learning
- ❖ Dean of Students Office



- BENEFITS OF SDS COLLABORATION AND ADVOCACY EFFORTS
 - ❖ Helping the campus community consider universal design and disability as an integral part of programs, events and activities
 - ❖ Understanding disability as a key component of diversity
 - ❖ Appreciation of disability culture and community
 - ❖ Accepting disability as a key element of what it means to be human
 - ❖ Promote proactive rather than reactive approaches to disability issues
 - ❖ Improve campus accessibility and climate
 - ❖ Promote an inclusive community



- STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES OUTREACH EFFORTS
 - ❖ Common syllabus statement for the university
 - ❖ Freshman and transfer orientations
 - ❖ High school college resource fairs
 - ❖ WSU Scholars Day- fall and winter
 - ❖ Admitted Student Days- February and April
 - ❖ WSU departmental meetings throughout the academic year
 - ❖ Liaison and advisor workshops in fall and winter semesters
 - ❖ University community programming: World Usability Day- 11/2015



STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES

A closer look at our students:

1. Disability: Blindness, BSW, 3.2 GPA, MSW, 3.49 GPA, 171 SDS visits
2. Disability: Psychological, BA, Medstart, 4.0 GPA, 68 SDS visits
3. Disability: Hearing loss, BS, 3.13 GPA, 137 SDS visits

By promoting full participation and inclusion for all people by building supportive relationships for student success and by continuing to create an inclusive environment, we create a campus that values disability and embodies equity of opportunity.