Disability Support Services

Graduate Program Director/Staff Retreat 2016

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Goals for today:

• Awareness of the presence and purpose of Disability Support Services

• Understanding of your responsibilities under disability compliance mandates

• Recognition of the need for collaboration between the faculty/staff member, DSS staff, and the student
The Purpose of DSS

• Ensure accessibility for students with disabilities

• Prevent discrimination of students with disabilities
The DSS Process

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How DSS Determines Eligibility for Services and Accommodations

• Students are required to self-identify
• Complete an application
• Submit complete documentation
• Meet with a counselor for one-on-one intake
• Complete Accommodation Conference
  (School of Medicine students complete the Accommodation Conference within SOM Student Services)
Accommodations Must Be *Reasonable*

- Accommodations may be reasonable in one setting (classroom), but unreasonable in another (clinical)
  
  Example: “Extended time”
  (written test vs. demonstrating time-sensitive surgical competency)

- Refer to your program’s essential functions and technical standards
Examples of Accommodations

• Extended time on exams
• Reduced distraction testing environment
• Peer notetaker
• Reasonable amount of disability-related absences
• Access to assistive technology
• Permission to take short breaks
• Permission to use an audio recorder
• Books in alternative format
• Sign language interpreting/captioning services
Testing Accommodations

• Common testing accommodations:
  • Extended time
  • Reduced distraction testing environment
  • Access to assistive technology
  • Reader or scribe

• Collaboration between student and instructor

• DSS available to proctor exams
  • Test Security
Responding to Student Requests (FACULTY)

**Student Responsibilities for Requesting Accommodations:**
1. Send accommodation notice to instructor via Student Portal
2. Schedule appointment to meet with instructor to discuss accommodations

**Faculty Responsibilities for Responding to Accommodation Requests:**
1. Receive accommodation notice via email titled “DSS Accommodation Notice”
2. Confirm receipt of accommodation notice via Faculty Portal
3. Meet with student to discuss accommodations

**Other Important Notes:**
- Students within School of Medicine do not use Student Portal to send notices
- Students can request accommodations at any point in a semester
- Accommodation requests must be provided to instructor in a reasonable amount of time (i.e. not reasonable to request an accommodation DURING a test)
- If a student requests an accommodation or modification, they are expected to go through DSS
Universal Design for Instruction

An approach for teaching that involves:

• Proactive design
• The use of inclusive instructional strategies that create environments usable by all people without the need for adaptation.
• Flexible, customizable delivery of contact rather than a, “one-size, fits-all” approach
• UDI not only benefits students with disabilities
  • Example: Closed Captioned Video
Recommendations

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Confidentiality

• What information is considered confidential?
  • ALL disability-related information, including a student’s diagnosis or type of disability
  • NEVER ask a student to tell you their disability
  • Refrain from discussing a student’s DSS status with others

• The impact of stigma
  • May delay a student accessing services
  • Fear of being called out or treated differently
Syllabus Statement

• Recommended for ALL courses
• Clarifies your expectations and the student’s responsibilities for requesting accommodations
• Review this statement verbally with the class
Essential Requirements and Over-accommodating

• Students with disabilities should be held to the same standards as all other students
• Over-accommodating yields consequences for both the student and the university
• Importance of professional judgment
• Predetermined decision vs. individualized assessment
• Consult with DSS if accommodations conflict with essential requirements
Service vs. Assistance Animals

Service animal
• any dog trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability
• generally allowed access in all facilities and programs that are open to the public (not an accommodation)

Assistance animal
• any animal recommended by a professional to provide emotional support to individuals with disabilities
• permitted in university housing per the FHA, may be permitted in the classroom as an approved accommodation

What are you allowed to ask?
1. Is this dog a service animal that is required because of a disability?
2. What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?
Resources and Conclusion

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Referring Students to DSS and other Resources

• What if you suspect a student has a disability?
  • Offer behavioral observations, such as examples from writing, exams, or attention in class
  • Ask the student if he or she can explain the difficulties
  • Refer to DSS as well as other campus resources

• Disruptive students
  • May or may not be disability related
  • Speak with student privately
  • Refer appropriately
CONTACT DSS!

Please reach out to DSS with any questions or concerns you may have.

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(relocating to the Hill Student Center late Fall 2016)