Student Accessibility Services At Ohio University

The mission of Student Accessibility Services (SAS) is to ensure equal opportunity and access for members of the Ohio University community. Central to this mission is the development of an academic environment that is accessible to all people without the need for adaptation. While working toward the goal of full inclusion, accommodations must still be provided on an individual basis.

Eligibility and Registration

To be eligible for Student Accessibility Services, a student must:

- submit disability documentation (as described below) and a completed Application for Accessibility Services online by going to: https://www ohio.edu/us/sas and clicking on Submit your Application for Accommodation
- receive notification from an Accessibility Coordinator (AC) that you are eligible;
- schedule and attend an intake appointment with your assigned Accessibility Coordinator

During the intake meeting the student and AC will determine accommodations and also discuss assistive technology or potential support services around campus that may be of assistance to the student.

Documentation

Accessibility Coordinators review documentation and determine eligibility according to the framework of the American's with Disabilities Act Amendment Act and in accordance with the professional standards of the Association of Higher Education and Disability. There is no "exact formula" of how to document or determine a disability; however here are the things we look for in documentation:

- there is a chronic physical or mental condition that has been diagnosed
- evidence that the condition significantly impacts one or more Major Life Activity (such as seeing, learning, standing, etc.)
- provided by a medical, mental health, or educational professional qualified to diagnose, evaluate, and treat the condition
- demonstrates a history of accommodation
- impact on current functioning
- supports the accommodations being requested
Contact Information

Teresa McKenzie, Accessibility Coordinator
740-533-4600 or the direct line: 740-547-3875; Fax: 740-547-3876
mckenzt1@ohio.edu
*Office hours: Monday 1 pm – 5 pm, Tuesday 9 am – 5 pm, Wednesday 1 pm – 5 pm & Thursday 9 am – 1 pm

What is an Accessibility Coordinator and how will they work with me?

The AC is the primary person who will determine eligibility for accommodations, assist you in identifying technology or equipment that may assist in your learning, and help you connect to campus resources that support your success and development. The AC will also assist faculty in understanding accommodations if questions arise or assist you in resolving concerns with faculty implementation of your accommodations.

What accommodations and services will SAS provide?

There are no “standard” accommodations. All accommodations will be determined specific to the individual during the intake appointment. For a general sense of accommodations and services, please see our separate handouts.

Is my disability information confidential?

Yes. It is confidential and separate from your academic record. You must sign a release of information for SAS to be able to discuss your disability information with others on campus, off campus, or your parents/guardian.

When should I contact SAS?

SAS strongly encourages students to schedule a meeting with an AC when initially visiting campus. We recommend sending your documentation to the appropriate Accessibility Coordinator at your campus once you have been admitted.
Student Accessibility Services
Carey Busch
Teresa McKenzie

Goals for Today
- Why we talk about disability/accessibility
- Role of SAS, faculty, and the student
- Quick accessibility tips

Why We Discuss Disability
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Higher education has a role in shaping outcomes for people with disabilities

Higher Ed & Disabilities
- Among all working-age people with disabilities, only 21% are employed full or part-time, compared to 69% of working-age people without disabilities.
- 19% of people with disabilities have reportedly graduated from college compared to 27% of their non-disabled counterparts.
- National Center for Education Statistics states that in 2011, average salaries for those with a college degree were nearly twice as high as those without.

Faculty Impact
Negative attitudes or perceptions of faculty and instructors impact the persistence of students with disabilities
Reasons students leave:
- Inconsistent accommodations
- Lack of faculty awareness of disabilities and disability resources

Our role at Ohio University
Student Accessibility Services
www.ohio.edu/uc/sas
- Began providing services as Institutional Equity
- Serve students on all OHIO campuses
- Report through University College
About Accessibility Services

- SAS is the office charged with assuring that OHIO is academically and programmatically accessible to students with disabilities
- Central point for students to identify themselves as having a disability and to request accommodations

About Accessibility Services

- Maintain confidential disability files
- Determine appropriate academic accommodations
- Advise faculty and staff regarding implementation of accommodations

About Accessibility Services

- Support the academic success of students with disabilities
- Assist students in developing a network of support
- Provide access to technology and equipment to support academic skill development

About Accessibility Services

- Advise students to help reduce the impact of the disability
- Coordinate with relevant campus contacts

Accommodation Examples

- Test Taking
  - Extended time
  - Separate location
  - Use of a...
    - Reader
    - Scribe
    - Calculator

Accommodation Examples

- Note Taking Assistance
  - Professors' notes and presentations
  - Peers' notes
  - LiveScribe Pen
  - Opportunity to record lectures
Accommodation Examples

- Flexibility with
  - Spelling and grammar
  - Deadlines
  - Attendance policy

Accommodation Examples

- Communication
  - FM Transmitter
  - Interpreter
  - Captioning
  - Voluntary class participation

Accessibility Coordinator

- The Accessibility Coordinator is the primary contact for a designated set of OHIO students
  - Teresa McKenzie
  - Resource Commons; 740-547-3875; mckenzti@ohio.edu; Fax - 740-547-3876

Faculty's Role at OHIO

Faculty members serve as a gateway for accommodations
- Receive requests from students
- Make arrangements to implement individual accommodations
- Contact student's Accessibility Coordinator
- Maintain student confidentiality

Instructor Notification

- Student requests, receives, and gives a Letter of Notification outlining accommodations to instructor
- Student and instructor should discuss how to implement accommodations
- Instructor is encouraged to contact student's AC for assistance or questions regarding accommodations

Appeals and Complaints

- For concerns about a specific request for accommodation, or questions about the manner in which the accommodation is to be implemented, speak with the student's assigned AC immediately.
- Concerns which cannot be resolved by the AC and Instructor, will be reviewed by the Assistant Dean of Student Accessibility for a final resolution.
Accessibility Tips

- Include an accessibility syllabus statement
- Make an invitation for people to speak with you about their accommodations
- Select textbooks and required readings in advance of the semester
- Utilize videos that are captioned
- Clearly outline the expectations of your course including deadlines for assignments

QUESTIONS?

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