

QUICK FACTS & STRUCTURE

It's about **ACCESS!**

The mission of Disability Services is to ensure equal access to educational opportunities for students with disabilities to fully participate in the university environment. **Equal** access does not necessarily translate into the **same** type of access. The Disability Services (DS) office has been designated as the contact for a student with a disability to self disclose his or her disability and request accommodations. The staff at DS determine eligibility, identify reasonable accommodations, facilitate the implementation of the accommodation, promote student self advocacy and provide referrals for tutoring, counseling, and disability testing.

The DS staff members include a program director, a disability specialist, an accommodations coordinator, 2 front desk personnel (shared with the Counseling Center) and 2 undergraduate student assistants. The office is housed in the same location as the Counseling Center at 212 Ceres Hall. The department follows the university hours of 8-5 PM (academic year) and 7:30-4 PM (summer). Peak times for students to open files begins August to the end of October and mid-December to the end of February. Peak times for implementing or overseeing accommodations begins the end of September through finals week.

**Ceres Hall****(corner of University and Administration Avenue)***Diversity Strategies*

Individuals working in Disability Services serve as a resource to educate faculty, staff, students, and families about access and the legislation that prohibits discrimination for students with disabilities in higher education.

The Disability Services department promotes the use of universal design strategies to provide equal access. Universal design creates an environment where all students can access and be included in the learning.

The identification and implementation of a reasonable accommodation is a collaborative effort with faculty, staff, the student and the DS office. DS staff members provide education for better understanding of the various types of disabilities to cultivate a climate that's welcoming and respectful.

The Disability Services staff participate on diversity committees, attend trainings and activities to implement change, and work to retain students with disabilities.

COLLABORATION



STUDENT LEARNING INITIATIVES

Disability Services staff collaborate with Residence Life, TRIO, Counseling Center, NDSU faculty, Student Health Service, Distance and Continuing Education. ITS, Athletics, NDSU Bookstore, and other SA departments. Everyone assists with access.

DS staff facilitate development of the following skills for individuals with disabilities:

- Self Advocacy & Communication Skills
- Independence Skills
- Self-Awareness & Stress Management

DS staff members serve on campus-wide and community committees that encourage access for students with disabilities: President's Diversity Council, University Assessment Committee, Orientation and Student Success Committee, Complaint Resolution Board, Vice President

of Student Affairs Council, ITS Liaison Committee, Veteran's Integration Committee, Metro Area Mayors' Committee for People with Disabilities, Region V Interagency Transition Committee, and the ND Disability Services Council.

DID YOU KNOW?

It is not uncommon for students to be **first** diagnosed with a disability **after** arriving to college. While postsecondary institutions are not required to provide disability testing, there are many resources available for students who would like to pursue testing.

The ADA states that a public entity may not make unnecessary inquiries into the existence of a disability. Staff who suspect the presence of a disability can refer students to a variety of helpful offices on campus, including Disability Services.

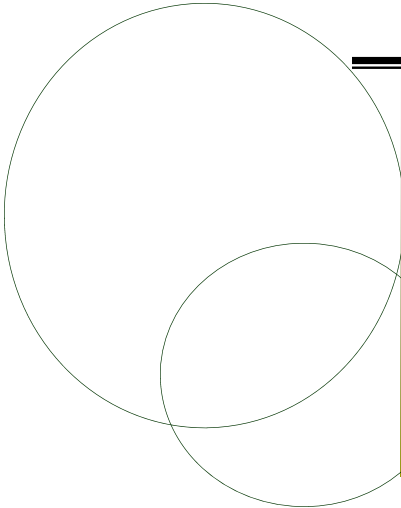
In 2006, the percentage of working-age people **with disabilities** with a Bachelor's degree or more in the US was **12.5%**.
 The percentage of working-age people **without disabilities** with a Bachelor's degree or more in the US was **30.3%**.
 A difference of **17.8%**.

Students seeking assistance with temporary medical conditions currently follow different procedures than students with disabilities. A link to these procedures can be found on the DS website or a consult can be scheduled with DS staff.

What's new?

The Americans with Disabilities Act was just re-authored in July 2008.

The Higher Education Amendments Act was also passed. This will provide financial assistance for new populations of students with disabilities.



EVALUATION & ASSESSMENT

Students served by Disability Services have historically been sent an online satisfaction survey each semester.

Parents of student with disabilities provide feedback about staff presentations at Orientation and Registration information sessions.

Prospective students can complete an online survey about their visit.

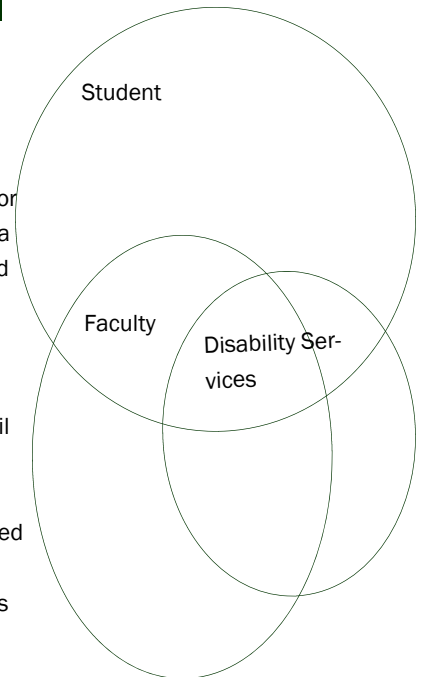
Currently, there is an effort to develop a tool to evaluate students' self-advocacy skills.

Future assessment efforts will include evaluation of faculty knowledge of ADA .

A DS Assessment Plan will be developed and implemented this academic year. Student outcomes will be established, methods of assessment will be identified and time frames for delivery will be scheduled.

StudentVoice will be used for assessment education, data gathering, data analysis and data sharing.

The NDSU Campus Climate survey conducted by the President's Diversity Council in spring 2009, will gather information about campus climate in regard to protected classes of individuals. Disability attitudes, stereotypes and assumptions will be included in the survey.



FUN FACTS

Disability Services staff proctored 438 exams during the 2007-08 academic year.

Fifty-six students volunteered to be note takers in the 2007-08 academic year.

One hundred and twenty one books were secured in an alternate format for students enrolled in the 2007-08 academic year.

Nationally, students with Autism Spectrum Disorders grew 870% from 1993-2003. Significant increases are expected to continue for the next 10 years or so.

BEST PRACTICES

The NDSU Disability Services Department uses the DS Council on Standards (CAS) document as a framer for the program. Staff are members of the Association on Higher Education and Disability

and adhere to the AD-HEAD Code of Ethics. NDSU policies Section 163, Section 600, Section 606.2 guide actions for staff and students.

Membership in the North Dakota Disability

Services Council provides continuity to DS services at the 11 ND institutions, private colleges, and tribal colleges within the state of ND.

The NDDSC promotes best practices for student services, documentation guidelines, training and education and sharing of resources.

HOT TOPICS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Hot Topics

With the development of new and more inclusive software, students with disabilities have greater access to information. Programs such as Dragon-Naturally Speaking, Kurzweil, ReadPlease, JAWS, WYNN, etc allow students to access information in an alternate format.

The DS department oversees the Assistive Technology Lab in FLC 120a. Students can use many of these software programs in the AT lab. ITS provides a staff person to train students to use the software.

Accomplishments

- ◆ E-text production site for the SE NDUS institutions; e-text training conducted by NDSU DS staff
- ◆ Conversion of accommodation requests to an electronic format in 2009.
- ◆ Online note taker training for volunteer note takers
- ◆ Collaboration to provide training for online faculty
- ◆ Student panel presentation to educate campus constituents about opportunities and challenges related to disability issues.
- ◆ Contributed to the first annual community ADA celebration, commemorating the passage of the historic civil rights legislation.

A look ahead... (what is up and coming?)

Electronic Requests for Exam Accommodations

Students will soon be able to request exam accommodations electronically. The DS department will be implementing a new exam accommodation procedure in spring 2009.

Focus Group for Students with Disabilities

The VP for Equity, Diversity and Global Outreach will conduct a focus group for students with disabilities on December 11, 2008 from 5-6 PM in the Prairie Room at the Memorial Union.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF (Disability Services)

Staff experience incredible learning opportunities when meeting with students with disabilities.

In providing access to the university, there is

frequent opportunity for ethical decision making.

The DS department provides test proctoring, obtaining and training of note takers, locating and preparing alternate text requests,

and coordinating residence life accommodation requests.

Staff members interact with prospective students and parents about access and relevant services .

Staff members facilitate consultations with individuals who are not sure if they have a disability.

Staff members work with medical providers to learn more about the functional limitations of the disability and ways to reduce the impact.