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“Gimme More”

A Proactive Approach to Advising Students with Disabilities

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+ **Putting the Student on Center Stage:**

- An Overview of TTU Student Disability Services
- Student Disability Services – Provides in-classroom accommodations for students with disabilities. Services are free to the student.
 - Two academic counselors
 - Six full time sign language interpreters

+ **Academic Accommodations**

- Accommodations are based on the documentation provided by the student.
- Provide students with disabilities the same opportunities to demonstrate mastery as students without disabilities.
- Accommodations can not...
- Types of accommodations
- Eligible Disability Areas

+ An Overview of TTU Student Disability Services (cont.)

- TECHniques Center – A fee-for-service program that provides academic support for students with LD and ADHD.
 - Six academic counselors
 - Approximately 40 CRLA certified peer tutors
 - Technology



NEW GENERATION OF COLLEGE STUDENTS



+ Parents of Students with Disabilities

- Paratrooper Parents Times Ten
 - With This Student Population, Parents Can Be Even More Enmeshed
 - Goal is not to Eliminate Parents from the Process, but to Encourage Self-Advocacy and Independence
 - Even with FERPA, You May Still Have Contact With Parents
- Students of this Generation May Have a “Gimme More” Frame of Mind
 - Just Because They Had it in High School Doesn't Mean They Get it in College
 - Check with Your Disability Office

+ Disability as Diversity

- So, what does this have to do with me, the non-disability services advisor?
 - Your role as director
- Students with disabilities are a growing group in the diverse campus community
- Many will not disclose to SDS



MYTH VERSUS TRUTH



+ Students with Disabilities: Myth Versus Truth

- They are lazy, stupid, unmotivated, dependent
 - Truth: Students with disabilities are just like every other college student
- They do less work than other students to get credit
 - Truth: Accommodations cannot alter the integrity of the course
- I do not have to deal with them, that is the SDS office's job
 - Truth: You are still their academic advisor, but you can partner with your SDS office

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HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE

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Transition from High School to College

- Students are eligible for services through SDS programs if they qualify under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- ADA is very different from the Individuals with Disabilities Educational Act (IDEA), which governs elementary – high school. Students will also refer to this as “504”.
- Students who are currently receiving services in high school may not be eligible for the same services in higher education.

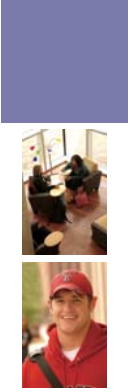
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IDEA and ADA: Success Versus Access

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDEA allows for modifications of classroom material. • Allows the school to alter curriculum • Allows for grading adjustments. • Focuses on assuring success. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA is a civil rights act, not an educational act. • Requires students have equal access. • Allows for reasonable accommodations. • Outcome-neutral law that ensures equal access but does not guarantee student success.
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FIRST MEETING



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The Initial Meeting

- Can I ask my student if they have a disability?
 - No
 - It is the student's right to disclose his/her disability
 - You may have to read between the lines of what the student is telling you
 - Alternative questions:
 - Are there any special issues I should be aware of as we plan your schedule?
 - I see you have struggled in... (writing intensive, math, foreign language) ...

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Using Student First Language

- Students with Disabilities
 - Versus "Disabled Students"
- Students with Visual Impairments
 - Versus "Blind Students"
- Students with Hearing Impairments
 - Versus "Deaf Students"
- Student is not Defined by His/Her Disability



Questions to Consider Asking

- What kind of courses are you successful with/ not successful with?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- Have you used tutoring services in the past?
- How can I best help you this semester?
- If a student discloses his or her disability, ask if they are using the Disability Services offered.



INVISIBLE





Invisible Disabilities

- Students with learning disabilities may show significant difficulties in the following:
 - listening comprehension
 - mathematics computation and reasoning
 - organization and mechanics of writing
 - problem-solving
 - reading speed and comprehension
 - reasoning
 - spelling

+ Invisible Disabilities

- Students with ADHD may show significant difficulties in the following:
 - concentration
 - following directions
 - high anxiety
 - listening skills
 - tolerance for stress
 - making transitions
 - memory
 - mood swings
 - patterns of hyperactivity and/or impulsiveness
 - reading speed and comprehension
 - starting, organizing, and completing tasks
 - time management

+ Advising Students with Disabilities

- Differences to Consider:
 - Number of credit hours to take in a semester, out-of-class commitments
 - Time of day and length of class
 - Number of days per week and number of days in between classes
 - Size of class, additional discussion or lab
 - Amount of time in between classes, to get to next class, re-focus, prepare for next class
 - Amount of time needed if using extended time on test

+ Instructor Teaching Styles

- Instructor style: lecture, discussion, learn from reading
- Test format: multiple choice, true/false, essay homework, class participation/attendance
- Obtain a copy of the course syllabus from instructor or web page to view course requirements and style

+ **Advising Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing**

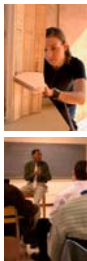
- It is the responsibility of the student to request an interpreter to assist him/her in the advising session
- Always speak to the student, not the interpreter
- Provide as much information as possible in a written format

+ **Advising Students Who Are Blind or Low Vision**

- Be prepared to read the materials aloud
- Portable scanners are available for student check out to use in their advising session
- Contact our office 3-5 days in advance if you would like materials brailled for an advising meeting
- Some students will need information provided in a larger font or on a specific color paper (i.e. green or ultra bright)



ADVOCACY



+ Self Advocacy As a Key to College Success

- As director to the actor, the advisor should not do everything for the student, but should give them guidance.
- Students with disabilities struggle with issues of self advocacy
- Life skills



Appreciating Strengths




+ Appreciating Strengths

- Every student has unique strengths, but many students with disabilities:
 - Often very creative
 - Resourceful
 - Idea driven
 - Different perspective

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PROBLEMS



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When Things Go Wrong!

- Student is put on probation
 - Tell the student exactly what the conditions of probation mean for him or her
 - Discuss what went wrong last semester and set goals for the current semester
 - Check back in on the student throughout the semester
- Student is underperforming in courses within his or her major
 - Evaluate causes for lack of performance
 - Help student seek out resources
 - Reevaluate the fit between the major and the student
 - If needed, help the student look at other majors
- Student feels that he or she may have a learning disability
 - Refer student to Disability Office
 - Follow up

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Partnerships Across Campus

- A good advisor knows when to refer students and/or work with various campus resources
 - Student Disability Services
 - Counseling Center
 - Tutoring Services
 - Career Center
 - Campus Life



Rebecca & Erin at 2007
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Music Credits

Britney Spears (Writer & Performer). 2007. Gimme More.

Tom Petty (Writer & Performer). 2008. I Won't Back Down.

Fleetwood Mac (Writers & Performers). 1988. Little Lies.

Dixie Chicks (Writers & Performers). 1998. Wide Open Spaces.

Ben Folds (Writer & Performer). 2006. You Don't Know Me (featuring
Regina Spektor).

The Beatles (Writers & Performers). 1965. Help!

+ Bon Jovi (Writers & Performers). 2001. It's My Life.

Journey (Writers & Performers). 2006. Don't Stop Believin'.

Chumbawumba (Writers & Performers). 1997. Tubthumping.