Services for Students with Disabilities: A Guide for Faculty Members

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Responsibilities of Disability Services

- Determine a student’s eligibility for disability services
- Determine & implement reasonable and appropriate accommodations
- Balance the legitimate civil rights of the student with a disability while protecting the standards and expectations of the university

Why Disability Services exists

- Legal mandate
  - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
  - Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)
  - ADA Amendments of 2008
- Ball State’s long history of access for students with disabilities
  - Recognized as “disability friendly” college

Students with disabilities at BSU

- Cognitive disabilities 401
- Psychological disabilities 135
- Chronic health conditions 120
- Mobility impairments 50
- Autism spectrum disorders 39
- Visual impairments 26
- Deaf/Hard of hearing 19

Key points in an educational setting

- Otherwise Qualified
  - Same admissions standards
  - Same program/classroom expectations
- Reasonable Accommodations
  - Ensures the SWD is graded on ability not disability (level the playing field)
  - Should not alter the integrity of the course
  - Examples:
    - Testing accommodations
    - Books in alternate formats
    - Note takers/recording of lectures

Ball State process

- Self-disclosure form (Admissions)
- Verification of disability
- Student requests accommodations
- Student presents faculty with accommodation letter
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Accommodation letters
Will be on Disability Services letterhead and contain the following:

- Verify (but not describe) the student's disability
- List appropriate accommodations
- Describe the options for the administration of accommodated testing

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Syllabus statement

- Include the following statement in the course syllabus and repeat it during the first class meeting:

  If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact me as soon as possible. Ball State’s Disability Services office coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu.

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Technology

- Carlos Taylor, Adaptive Technology Specialist – cetaylor@bsu.edu; 285-6124

- When creating technology, please consider how would a student who is blind or deaf access the technology.
  - This has become a major legal issue for colleges & universities.

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Other classroom considerations

- Auxiliary aids (interpreters, notetakers)
  - Disability Services will facilitate
- Captioning videos
  - Jeff Bowers, jowers@bsu.edu
- Field trips
  - For accessibility options, contact Transportation at 285-1022
- Distance education
  - Please consider disability access when creating online or hybrid courses
- Service animals
  - Must be clear, must receive documentation or ask about student's disability. Be careful!

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Additional points

- Confidentiality must be protected
- Create a welcoming environment:
  - Universal Instructional Design
- Hold students with disabilities to the same standards
  - Over-accommodating can be problematic
- Ask the expert - the student!
- Presentation with more detailed info: http://mympubsite.bsu.edu/bou40/Play/6da26892584a71f01d9002cb02e5d1d

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DS contact info

- Student Center 116; 765-285-5293; dsd@bsu.edu
- Staff
  - Larry Markle, Director
  - Courtney Jarrett, Associate Director
  - Sharon Harper, Administrative Coordinator
- DS website - www.bsu.edu/disabilityservices