

Empowering Success: Collaborative Approaches to Supporting Students with Disabilities at Iowa State University

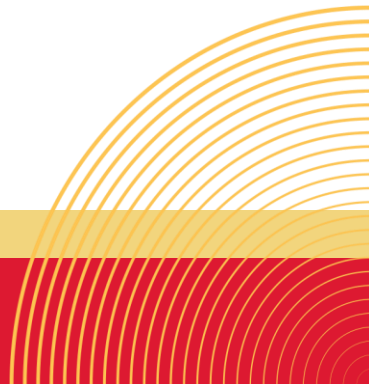


Megan Van Heiden

Senior Assistant Director
Office of Student Assistance

Learning Outcomes

- Identify collaborative strategies to effectively support students
- Apply best practices from real-world case studies to create more inclusive learning environments that foster accessibility and student success
- Recognize the role of campus-wide collaboration in promoting a culture of inclusivity and advocacy for students with disabilities
- Develop actionable strategies to implement in your own roles for building supportive, accessible campus communities



Dean of Students Office Overview



Dean of Students Office Units and Resources

Academic Success Center

Center for LGBTQIA+ Student Success

Center for Student Educational
Success

Hixson Opportunity Scholars

International Students and Scholars
Office

Margaret Sloss Center for Women and
Gender Equity

Military Affiliated Student Center

Office of Multicultural Student Affairs

National Student Exchange

Parent and Family Programs

Office of Sorority and Fraternity
Engagement

Student Accessibility Services

Office of Student Assistance

Office of Student Conduct

Student Legal Services

Student Support Services (TRIO)

Office of Student Assistance Overview



What is Student Assistance and what do we do?

The mission of the Office of Student Assistance is to help students experiencing difficulties or challenges achieve academic success. In collaboration with campus and community partners, we provide support through connection to appropriate resources and awareness of university processes for students attending Iowa State University.

MEET THE TEAM

HELPING
CYCLONES
SUCCEED



Kipp Van Dyke
Associate Dean of Students for
Student Assistance and
Academic Success



Megan Van Heiden
Senior Assistant Director



Kody Henke
Assistant Director



Tim Reuter
Assistant Director



Milly Agai
Intake Coordinator



Autumn Diesburg
Student Assistance Specialist



Johnna Ragland
Student Assistance Specialist

Role of the Office of Student Assistance



How do we receive information?

- Dean of Students Office Website under “Refer a Student”
- Email referrals sent to studentassistance@iastate.edu
- Calls to the Dean of Students Office Front Desk
 - Phone number: 515-294-1020
- Reports from the Department of Residence/ISUPD
- Other

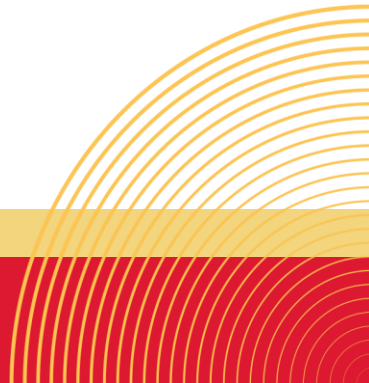
Role of the Office of Student Assistance



What do we do with information we receive?

- Document/No Action
- Connect with campus partners to consult and determine next steps
 - Anything reported is included and reviewed by the “Student Assistance Follow-Up and Evaluation Team” (SAFE-T)
- Outreach to students
- Notify students of scheduled meeting
- *Office of Equal Opportunity

Understanding Student Needs



Collaborative Partnerships to Support Students



Student Assistance and Student Accessibility Services Collaboration

- SAS limitations with accommodations they can provide
- Working with students that may not have documentation
- Setting realistic expectations with students on what is reasonable
- SAS representative that serves on SAFE-T

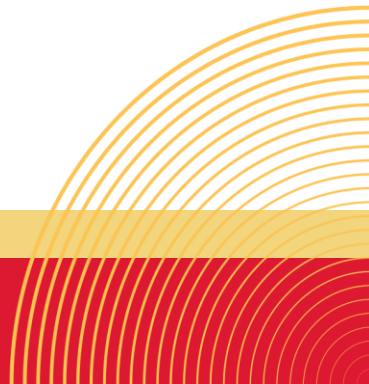
Collaborative Partnerships to Support Students



Supporting Students with Disabilities

- Encourage student to communicate their needs
- Respect boundaries and understand students may not always want to share everything about their disability
- Talk with students about ways you can support their learning
- Educate yourself on diverse range of disabilities students may have
- Practice empathy for students navigating challenging situations while setting realistic expectations
- Consult as needed

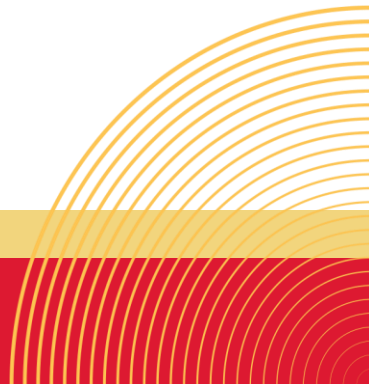
Case Study



Billie, a sophomore at Iowa State University, has been diagnosed with a learning disability and anxiety. Billie struggles with reading comprehension and time management, which negatively impacts their academic performance. Despite receiving accommodations from the Student Accessibility Services, Billie feels overwhelmed by the workload and has difficulty communicating their needs to professors.

Billie approaches the Office of Student Assistance to explore further support options and to address the increasing anxiety with coursework and campus life.

1. What are the key concerns/challenges Billie is facing?
2. What would you recommend Billie do next?
3. What additional resources might you consider getting Billie connected to?
4. In your own role, describe how you might work to support Billie with the information provided.



Alex is a junior at Iowa State University majoring in mechanical engineering. Throughout high school and their first two years of college, Alex performed well academically but struggled with attention and focus during long lectures and exams. Recently, Alex has experienced a significant drop in grades, which Alex attributes to increased course difficulty. Alex also finds it nearly impossible to concentrate during exams, often rushing through them and making careless mistakes. Alex begins feeling increasingly frustrated and overwhelmed, but has not sought help or considered accommodations as an option.

1. What are the key concerns/challenges Alex is facing?
2. What would you recommend Alex do next?
3. What additional resources might you consider getting Alex connected to?
4. In your own role, describe how you might work to support Alex with the information provided.

Building a Supportive Campus Community

What student concerns am I observing in my space?

In what ways does this make my work challenging?

Who can I collaborate with to help me?

What can I do to support these students?

DISABILITY AWARENESS
SUMMIT 2024

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in my space?

In what ways does this make
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with to help me?

What can I do to support
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Building a Supportive Campus Community



Key Takeaways

Collaboration is essential!

Build trust and create spaces for students to share

Creating a supportive campus community is a shared responsibility

Reflect on ways to enhance collaboration efforts in your own role to support students with disabilities

Let's Connect!

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