Student Accessibility Services Department Spotlight

Student Accessibility Services (SAS), formerly known as Student Disability Resources, is a unit in the Dean of Students Office that supports students with disabilities related to services and programs that enable their access to education and University life. Today Assistant Director, Wendy Stevenson, will focus on some of the services offered and typical questions that are asked to SAS staff members. More information about SAS, contact information, and other resources can be found on their website.

1. What services do you provide to students?

Student Accessibility Services provides a wide range of service and accommodations that include academic, housing, dining, facilities, assistance animals, and Registrar accommodations as well as accommodations for temporary health conditions. The most common accommodations are for academic accommodations and involve exam accommodations. Other accommodations that are not as well-known are use of the special diet kitchen, classroom proximity, snow routes, scribes for exams and quizzes, reader software, allergy notifications, Allergen Awareness House for a living option, etc. Our office works closely with instructors and our campus partners to coordinate these accommodations.

2. What kind of information do I need to be considered for accommodations?

To receive accommodations, students must provide documentation regarding their disability that meets our documentation guidelines. Student Accessibility Services will review and consider all pieces of information submitted. SAS takes into consideration documentation related to a student’s condition, past accommodations, and their personal narrative of experience of barriers. Documentation assists SAS to understand a student’s current diagnosis, how their condition impacts them in a post-secondary education setting and the current impact of the condition as it relates to the accommodations requested.

3. What is the best way to register for accommodations?

Either by completing our online referral form or by calling our office at 515-294-7220 to schedule an appointment.

4. Once I get accommodations, do I have to register each semester?

No. A student does not need to register each semester but a student does need to request their accommodations each semester. Each semester a student can choose which approved accommodations they want to use for each of their classes or if they even want to use their accommodations.

5. What is the Exam Accommodation Center?

The Exam Accommodation Center (EAC) is located at 1200 Hixson-Lied Student Success Center. Instructors may refer their students with approved exam accommodation to the Exam Accommodation Center. The EAC can provide proctored low distraction or private exam rooms with cameras as well as a variety of assistive technology such as text to speech software, speech to text software, CCTVs, Zoom, and JAWS. They also have adjustable tables, standing desks, alternative seating, and proximity to a restroom for students with those approved accommodations.