

Date: April 2, 2018
To: ISU Administrators
From: Dr. Vernon Hurte, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students
Steven Moats, Director of Student Accessibility Services
Re: Name Change: Student Accessibility Services

We are pleased to announce a name change within the Dean of Students Office, a unit within the Division of Student Affairs. Effective April 2, 2018 Student Disability Resources (SDR) will be Student Accessibility Services (SAS).

Changing Context

Iowa State University has a long standing commitment to ensuring open access and providing all students with the supports necessary to persist to graduation. Previously, compliance with legally mandated accommodations required by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Americans with Disabilities Amendments of 2008 served as the primary focus of our campus services. This name change shifts the focus from a medical model of 'disability' toward creating a campus where all students have access to education. This approach aligns with our land grant mission. The change will cast a new light on the broad role of the office and the intended focus on access and environmental solutions versus remediating the perceived limitations of individuals with disabilities.

The staff in Student Accessibility Services have worked diligently with administrators, faculty, and staff to promote equitable participation in university events, courses, activities, and facilities. The new name aligns the services provided with national trends promoting inclusive environments and access. The core services and staff roles assisting students, instructors, and the campus community remain the same.

Student Accessibility Services is committed to creating an equitable and accessible Cyclone experience for all students at Iowa State, inclusive of their physical and/or mental abilities and intersecting identities. The new name emphasizes our intentional commitment to holistic student success.

Implementation

The name change is effective immediately. **Please update department records, websites, and marketing materials accordingly, and share this information with colleagues in your area(s).**

Please update all course syllabi to include the following accessibility statement:

“Iowa State University is committed to assuring that all educational activities are free from discrimination and harassment based on disability status. Students requesting accommodations for a documented disability are required to meet with staff in Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to establish eligibility and learn about related processes. Eligible students will be provided with a Notification Letter for each course and reasonable accommodations will be arranged after timely delivery of the Notification Letter to the instructor. Students are encouraged to deliver Notification Letters as early in the semester as possible. SAS, a unit in the Dean of Students Office, is located in room 1076 Student Services Building or online at www.sas.dso.iastate.edu. Contact SAS by email at accessibility@iastate.edu or by phone at 515-294-7220 for additional information.”

Mission Statement

Student Accessibility Services (SAS) supports students with disabilities and coordinates support services and programs that facilitate access to education and university life. SAS believes that equity, social justice, and diversity are essential to creating and maintaining an environment of equal access and opportunity for all. We believe that disability is a naturally occurring aspect of life and is an integral part of the Iowa State University campus community.

Staff Titles

Steven Moats
Director of Student Accessibility Services

Megan Johnson
Sensory Services Coordinator

Wendy Stevenson
Assistant Director of Student Accessibility Services

Kellie Schier
Cued Language Transliterater

Ian Allen
Student Accessibility Coordinator

Lori Mickle
Exam Accommodations Center Coordinator

Zachary Batchelder
Student Accessibility Coordinator

Stephanie Benn
Exam Accommodations Center Assistant

Cosette Bergman
Student Accessibility Services Secretary

Upcoming technology improvements

The name change will initiate additional updates to essential services provided by Student Accessibility Service. A new web-based communications platform within SAS will move the office to electronic documentation of all records, and ease the intake process for students receiving services. Notification Letters (formerly Student Academic Accommodation Request forms) will soon be available electronically. Referrals to the Exam Accommodations Center (EAC) will also be simplified. Additional information on these changes scheduled for fall 2018, implementation will be communicated in August.

Contact

Questions and comments may be directed to the Dean of Students Office at 515-294-1020 or Student Accessibility Services at 515-294-7220.

New e-mail address: accessibility@iastate.edu
New website URL: www.sas.dso.iastate.edu