ADVISING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
A conversation with Jenny Lynes, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

According to Jenny Lynes, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator, there are several challenges faced by students with disabilities. Examples of these challenges include stigma (they fear being perceived as incapable) and the ability to advocate for their own education. If a student comes directly from high school where it has not been their responsibility to advocate and manage their accommodations, having to do so in college can be a difficult transition. Jenny encourages all advisees to be an advocate for themselves - especially for those with potential learning challenges.

Upon entering UNI, a student might decide they no longer wish to have any accommodations because they do not believe that they need them anymore. Jenny encourages advisors (and classroom instructors) to listen and have open discussions with their students about their concerns - this could be the time when they share that they may have a learning (documented or not) disability.

Students can connect with the student accessibility team at any time during their period of study. A student may not have any concerns until later in their time at UNI. Furthermore, anxiety and depression are also on the rise and students can seek accommodations for these issues as well.

A student will follow these steps in requesting academic accommodations:

1. Access the Student Interface of Accommodate and log in with the student’s UNI CatID.
2. Open and complete the Accessibility Accommodation Request.
3. Student Accessibility Services will review the information submitted, and the student will receive an email requesting to schedule an Accessibility Consultation appointment.
4. The student will have the Accessibility Consultation meeting.
5. Appropriate accommodations will be implemented.

Some of the documentation a student can provide for review include: personal narrative, letter from current physician, and past accommodation history. If an advisee shares with you that their accommodation needs are not being met, encourage them to meet with the student accessibility team to discuss their issue. In addition, a question to ask them is “Have you met with your professor?” While the student is not obligated to discuss their disability with their professor, they are required to discuss what their accommodations will look like. They are encouraged to do this during office hours.

If you have questions about advising student with disabilities, you are encouraged to contact either Jenny Lynes or Kelly Fiddelke at 319-273-2677.

For more information, please visit the Student Accessibility Services web page.

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

SPRING 2020 ACADEMIC ADVISING WORKSHOP
- Enhance knowledge of and comfort with intercultural communication
- Create an understanding and establishment of a shared vision of this work
- Develop a comprehensive resource list
- Build continued commitment and engagement to intercultural competence

Mental Health Ally Training for Academic Advisors

Friday, February 28, 2020 | 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. | Curris Business Building 102
**Note both Part 1 and Part 2 of the Mental Health Ally training will be offered at this session**

The goal of this two-part training is to educate participants, as well as de-escalate them to take action and make real change in our mental health culture at UNI.

- Part one of this two-part training focuses on gaining a greater understanding of mental health and its effects on individuals and our environment. Participants will learn about mental health terminology, types of mental health current findings, and personal perceptions. Additionally, this interactive session will focus on breaking through mental health myths and understanding the facts regarding mental health and persons with mental illnesses.
- Part two focuses on addressing stigma, creating a "Culture of Care" in your organization, workplace, or community, as well as developing the skills to become a mental health ally. Participants will learn the eight commandments of becoming a mental health ally and use activities to understand the effectiveness of these skills.

Please RSVP to Jenny Connolly (jenny.connolly@uni.edu) if planning to attend this training session.