Student Disability Services
Kelly Gibbs, Coordinator
Mission:

“Provide services and promote an accessible environment which allows students with disabilities an equal opportunity for participation in educational and other campus activities.”
What We Do:

- We are not giving students with disabilities an unfair advantage by providing accommodations.

- It is all about leveling the playing field and making sure students do not experience any barriers to obtaining an education due to their disability.

- Ensure students with disabilities have access to educational opportunities within their classes and activities across campus
ADA & Section 504:

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, individuals with disabilities are guaranteed certain protections and rights to equal access to programs and services.

In order to access these rights, it is the policy of the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) for students with disabilities to register with Student Disability Services (SDS) in order to determine eligibility for academic accommodations.
Types of Common Disabilities:

- ADHD
- Asperger’s Syndrome
- Bipolar Disorder
- Blind/Low Vision
- Cerebral Palsy
- Crohn’s Disease
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- Diabetes
- Learning Disabilities
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Muscular Dystrophy
- PTSD
- Seizure Disorders
- Traumatic Brain Injury
Who Do We Serve?

- Chronic Health Condition: 43%
- Psychiatric: 24%
- LD/ADD: 26%
- Mobility: 4%
- Sensory: 3%
Accommodation Examples:

• Classroom Accommodations
  – Ability to Audio Record Lectures
  – Textbooks in Alternate Format
  – Note-Taking Assistance
  – Preferential Seating
  – Wheel Chair accessible table

• Testing Accommodations
  – Extended Time
  – Separate Location
  – Reader and/or Scribe
  – Computer for Essay Exams

• Housing/Dining:
  – Special dietary meal plan (food allergies)
  – Room Assignment (ex: 1st Floor)
Temporary Accommodation:

- Examples of Short-Term Condition
  - Broken Limbs
  - Pregnancy
  - Short term impairment following surgery or other medical treatments

May be eligible for temporary assistance through Student Disability Services.
How Do We Determine Eligibility?

• Student must self-identify as a person with a disability to receive services
  – IEP and 504 Plans do not automatically transfer with the student
  – Provide documentation verifying existence of a disability and complete our Request for Services form
Applying for Accommodations

Step One:
• Complete and submit a Request for Services Form
• The Request for Services Form provides SDS with an introduction to the student’s disability needs and academic accommodation history.

Step Two:
• Submit documentation in support of the request for academic accommodations
• Documentation provides additional support for accommodation requests.
Types of Documentation

• A psycho-educational or neuro-psychological evaluation
• Relevant medical records
• A letter from a current physician or psychologist
• A recent IEP or 504 Plan
• A Summary of Performance or Support for Accommodation Request Form (Iowa Residents)

For more information visit [www.uni.edu/sds](http://www.uni.edu/sds)
Access vs. Success

- Students can still fail.
- Accommodations do not ensure student success.
- Accommodations are student driven.
- Students can choose not to utilize accommodations.
- Accommodations are not retroactive.
Accommodation Process

• Once accommodations are determined, students contact faculty to arrange accommodations
  – Provide accommodation form to instructors
  – Contact SDS should problems arise
  – Complete accommodation forms for each semester requesting accommodations
Connecting Students to SDS

- Always recommend SDS with a list of other options.
- English as a second language doesn’t not qualify as a disability.
- Just because a student has a disability doesn’t mean that it’s a barrier.
- If a student is expressing concerns with a professor in regards to receiving an accommodation, let us know.
- Student completes a release of information for SDS to disclose to you their registration with our office.
Are there services SDS does not provide?

- Services not provided include:
  - Modifications to the course material
  - Personal Care Attendants
  - Individually Prescribed Devices
  - Personal Transportation
  - Tutoring
  - Special Education Courses
  - Schedule Planning
Contact Us:

- Top Floor 103 Student Health Center
- 319-273-2677
- disabilityservices@uni.edu
- Fax: 319-273-7576
- www.uni.edu/sds

Kelly Gibbs, SDS Coordinator
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Karen Phillips, Secretary
QUESTIONS?