Services for Students with Disabilities

“SSD’s primary role is to ensure students with disabilities have equal access to their academic experience.”

There are currently more than 2,000 students who receive accommodations through Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). This is only a fraction of the students with disabilities at The University of Texas at Austin since students decide whether or not to self-identify as having a disability and request accommodations. SSD works with students who have a variety of disabilities including learning disabilities, psychological disabilities/mental health conditions, Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, mobility disabilities, visual disabilities, deaf and hard of hearing, and medical conditions.

The rights of students with disabilities in the postsecondary setting are protected by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008. These acts are civil rights legislation designed to protect individuals with disabilities from discrimination and guarantee equal access to the learning environment through reasonable accommodations of their disability(ies).

Mission Statement

Based in the philosophy that all students should be assured equal access and opportunity, Services for Students with Disabilities works to eliminate physical, instructional, and attitudinal barriers by providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and fostering awareness within the university community.

Available Services

The University of Texas at Austin provides a wide variety of services to assist students with disabilities in becoming active members of the university community. The services and support vary according to the impact of different types of disabilities. While SSD’s primary role is to ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to their academic experience, SSD also consults with other campus offices and departments to facilitate access and inclusion in all aspects of campus life.

Students registering with SSD provide documentation of their disability to assist with verifying eligibility and determining reasonable services and accommodations. Documentation guidelines for specific disability categories are located online at: http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/documentation-guidelines/

All accommodations are approved on a case-by-case basis; however, some of the assistance frequently offered to students includes:

Classroom Accommodations
- Notetaking assistance
- Sign language interpreters
- Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART)
- Texts in an alternative format

Testing Accommodations
- Extended test taking time
- Reduced distraction environment for testing
- Testing with assistive technology

Education and Support
- Priority registration
- Campus accessibility information
- Trainings and workshops
- Referrals to campus and community service

SSD also connects students with information about scholarships, internships/employment opportunities, student organizations, and social opportunities. SSD staff is available to work with faculty, staff, and departments who need information or assistance in adapting coursework, lectures, or university procedures for students with disabilities.

Adaptive Equipment

The university has a variety of adaptive equipment available for students with disabilities. These items are located in two primary locations: the Perry Castañeda Library and the Student Services Building. Several colleges on campus also have special equipment available for use. All can be used free of charge and are available as posted in each location.

The equipment list includes a variety of Braille embossers, scanners, assistive listening devices, and adaptive software including screen reading and literacy programs. In addition, the university’s goal is to provide a diverse array of computer hardware utilizing the newest software in order to meet the needs of the student population. More detailed information may be found online at: http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/assistive-technology/

For more information, contact us:

The University of Texas at Austin
Division of Diversity and Community Engagement
Services for Students with Disabilities
100 W. Dean Keeton Street, 4.206
Austin, TX 78712-0175
PHONE: 512-471-6259    FAX: 512-475-7730
VIDEO PHONE: 512-410-6644
WEB: http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/
FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/UTAustin-ServicesForStudentsWithDisabilities
TWITTER: @UT_SSDisability
ON CAMPUS:
Student Services Building (SSB)
Fourth Floor, Room 4.206

Services for Students with Disabilities is a unit of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement at The University of Texas at Austin.
Other Services

In addition to the services provided by SSD, other departments on campus provides useful services for students. It is very important for all current or prospective students to be familiar with these offices, since the services they provide may be beneficial.

Office of Admissions
Freshmen .................. 512-475-7440
Transfer .................... 512-475-7399
Graduate/International ..... 512-475-7336

Students with disabilities must meet the same basic admission requirements as other students.

Office of the Dean of Students . . . . 512-471-5017
Provides a variety of services to students and family members, including new student orientation, assistance to registered student organizations, Student Emergency Services, information on the university’s Institutional Rules, as well as student rights and responsibilities.

Parking and Transportation ...... 512-471-7275
Designated parking spaces around campus are available for students with documented disabilities.

Center for Teaching and Learning. . 512-471-3032
Accommodated placement test arrangements are available to students with disabilities.

Division of Housing and Food Service .......... 512-471-3136
Offers accessible housing in residence halls on campus and off-campus apartments for students with families. Examples of accommodations may include modified desks, adapted bathroom facilities or visual alarm systems.

Office of Financial Aid .......... 512-475-6282
Students seeking economic assistance including scholarships, grants, loans and work-study can contact this office and apply for various types of financial aid.

University Health Services ...... 512-471-4955
UHS provides a variety of health services for students.

Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) .......... 1-800-252-5204
Students may also be able to receive services through DARS, which is a component of the Texas Department of Health and Human Services. DARS is comprised of Rehabilitation Services, Blind Services, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Disability Determination Services, and Early Childhood Intervention Services. More information is available online at www.dars.state.tx.us/

Counseling and Mental Health Center .......... 512-471-3515
The Counseling Center provides accessible individual and group counseling free of charge, or for a nominal fee, on a short-term basis.

Speech and Hearing Center .......... 512-471-3841
Provides a full range of diagnostic and therapeutic services for students with hearing and speech disabilities.

Sanger Learning Center .......... 512-232-8400
Students requiring assistance with specific academic subjects or general study habits may utilize the Sanger Learning Center, which offers workshops on study skills and provides information and tips on academic success.

Center for Strategic Advising and Career Counseling .......... 512-232-8400
Part of the Sanger Learning Center, the Center for Strategic Advising and Career Counseling offers academic advising, as well as counseling and information on career choices and options for students.

Capital Metro .......... 512-389-7435
Austin Capital Metro provides accessible shuttle bus transportation along regular bus routes. Charges for using UT shuttles are included in student fees, and no special arrangements need be made. Shuttles run from 6:30 a.m. – 11 p.m. Monday through Friday when classes are in session with reduced times on weekends, holidays, and non-class days. Maps and shuttle route schedules are available on campus.

Undergraduate Writing Center .......... 512-471-6222
The Writing Center provides assistance with all aspects of writing a paper. Students can make an appointment or walk in for individual consultations.

(Continued on back panel.)