Presentation Overview

• Who we are
• Why we do it
• Student Demographics
• Accommodation Process
• Course accessibility
• Best practices
Who we are

- Leigh Culley, MEd, Director
- Noreen Mazzocca, MSEd, Disability Specialist
- Jenny Huff, LSW, Disability Specialist
- Chad Jurica, EdD, Disability Specialist
- Danielle Dzvonick, MEd, Disability Specialist
- Jennifer Thompson, MEd, Disability Specialist
- Lydia Chmill, Office Administrator
Office for Equity Diversity and Inclusion

• Disability Resources and Services
  • 140 William Pitt Union
• Civil Rights and Title IX
• Digital Accessibility
• Disability Resources and Services
• Equity Assessment, Programming, and Training
• Institutional Equity and Affirmative Action
DRS Office Overview

- Determine eligibility and services for academic, housing, and dining accommodation requests
- Test Proctoring Service
  - Partnership with the University Testing Center
    G33 Cathedral of Learning
- Conduct student meetings and manage student caseloads
- Faculty, staff, and community interaction
- Coordinate Note Sharing accommodation
- Coordinate Interpreting service
Why we do it

• Equal Access

• The University of Pittsburgh is committed to providing equal opportunities in higher education to qualified students, staff and faculty with disabilities.

• Students with disabilities are integrated as completely as possible into the University experience.

• Make programs, services and facilities accessible to individuals with disabilities who are otherwise qualified in the most integrated setting possible

• No discrimination or harassment based on disability, record of disability or belief that individual is disabled
Defining a Disability

1. A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

- Major life activities include: performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working.

- Major Bodily Functions include: functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions.
Defining a Disability

2. Has a record of such impairment; or
3. Is regarded as having such an impairment

Disability is the only minority group that you can join at any stage of life.
Types of Disabilities

- Psychiatric Disabilities
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- Chronic Illness
- Learning Disabilities
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Mobility Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Blind or Low Vision
- Deaf or Hard of Hearing
Demographic of Disability (n=1502)

- Psychological: 43%
- ADHD: 20%
- Chronic Illness: 16%
- Learning Disability: 7%
- Orthopedic: 3%
- Autism Spectrum Disorder: 3%
- Traumatic Brain Injury: 3%
- Visual: 2%
- Other: 2%
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing: 1%
Types of Accommodations

• Testing accommodations
• Extended time, use of the University Testing Center, Ability to take breaks, Alternative format, Assistive technology
• In class accommodations
• Ability to take breaks, Audio record, Physical access, Preferential seating
• Housing accommodations
• Dining accommodations
New Student Responsibilities

• Apply for services with DRS to request accommodations, adjustments, or auxiliary aids and services
  • https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/disability-access/disability-resources-and-services/get-started-drs/apply-services

• Provide appropriate documentation including the diagnosis and functional limitation(s) of the disability

• Documentation Guidelines and Accommodation Request Forms:
  • https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/disability-access/disability-resources-and-services/get-started-drs/documentation-guidelines

• Complete New Intake Appointment with Disability Specialist
• Determine reasonable accommodations through interactive process
Established Student with Accommodations

• Request Disability Notification letters each term and communicate with their Instructors

• Review Student Tips for Professional Communication with Instructors

• New Intake Appointment

• Maintain institutional standards for academic performance and conduct
Best Practices for Instructors

• Include recommended disability syllabus statement
• Review Disability Notification letters for each student
• Implement best practices in teaching to reach a diversity of learners
• Work with students and DRS to ensure accommodations are provided
• Contact DRS should there be a concern regarding an accommodation
• Maintain confidentiality of student information
DRS Faculty/Instructor Support

• Instructor Portal
  • View a list of students who have requested accommodations in your course(s) for the current term
  • View a copy of the Disability Notification letter for each student

• Faculty Resources for Remote Learning
  • https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/disability-access/disability-resources-and-services/resources/faculty-resources-remote-learning
EIT Accessibility Policy

• Policy Scope
  • Applies to all official University EIT (hardware, software, content) used to conduct University academic, research and business activities

• Policy Priorities
  • New EIT: must be in compliance as of the date this Policy is adopted
  • Fundamental EIT: must be in compliance no later than two years after this Policy’s effective date
    • Fundamental course content must be in compliance no later than four years after this Policy’s effective date.
  • Secondary EIT: be in compliance, or the content must otherwise be made available in an equally effective accessible format, and in a timely manner
Accessibility Big Ideas

• Headings
• Hyperlinks
• Image Alt Text
• Color and Contrast
• Captions
• Tables
• Keyboard Navigation
UDOIT for Course Accessibility

• Integrates directly with Canvas
• Scans your Canvas course
• Generates a report of accessibility issues that could impede your students' ability to learn
• Provides resources for addressing these issues
Questions?

Disability Resources & Services
140 William Pitt Union
(412) 648-7890
drsrecep@pitt.edu
drs.pitt.edu

Office of Diversity & Inclusion
2nd Floor Webster Hall
(412) 648-7860
diversity@pitt.edu
accessibility@pitt.edu
diversity.pitt.edu