

Disability Resources & Services and Digital Accessibility Overview

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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, MEd, Disability Specialist
- Jenny Huff, LSW, Disability Specialist
- Chad Jurica, EdD, Disability Specialist
- Danielle Dzvonic, 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

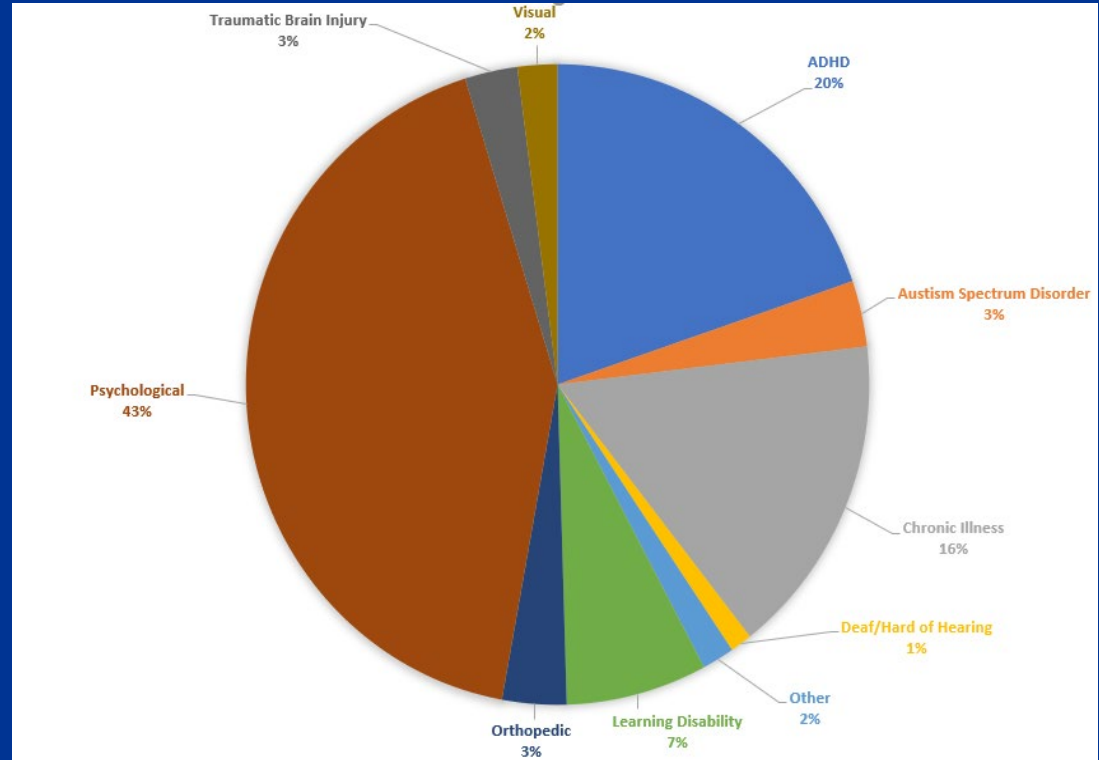
Disability is the only minority group that you can join at any stage of life.

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
 - <https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/disability-access/disability-resources-and-services/get-started-drs/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

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