

Introduction

The Office of Disability Services (ODS) provides assistance to both students and faculty in accommodating students with disabilities. This office serves as the primary resource for all student issues related to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The office has a long history, dating before both the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act. It was created in 1970 to serve the needs of a growing number of students with disabilities on campus.

The Office of Disability Services (ODS) has never been included in any previous assessments. In recent years prior to July, 2006, ODS was part of the Trio Student Support Services program. None of the Trio assessment data specifically addressed the charge of the Office of Disability Services. As of July 1, 2006 the ODS has been assigned to the Comprehensive Learning Center.

Goals

The goals of the Comprehensive Learning Center as they relate to the Office of Disability Services are as follows:

Contributing to knowledge, skills, learning, and development in the following areas:

- Understanding of the University's structure and policies
- Learning effectively on my own
- Understanding myself
- Understanding the expectations of college
- Providing the support I need to succeed academically
- Helping me locate campus resources

Outcomes

The Office of Disability Services is in the process of measuring outcomes relating to the above goals, as well as student satisfaction with the services received.

Research Methods

All research regarding our area is indirect. Provision of appropriate academic adjustments and accommodations guarantees access to our educational programs and services, not success in them. A survey of students served by the office will be conducted now that the academic year has concluded to see if the students report outcomes that are in keeping with the goals of the Comprehensive Learning Center.

Areas to be surveyed include:

- Demographic information
- How were you referred to ODS?
- Satisfaction with services
- Reader/alternative text service
- Testing accommodations
- Understanding of rights: student and faculty

- University atmosphere: welcoming? Satisfaction with staff
- Adaptive technology
- Adaptive Technology Lab
- Access to Comprehensive Learning Center Services
- Physical access to campus
- CAS learning outcomes questions not addressed above

Indirect evidence of the effectiveness of the services provided by this office can be seen in our statistics: our number of students served has risen steadily over the past two years, from approximately 150 to 330 students with disabilities receiving services. ODS did not always track data with regard to proctoring exams, but in the last calendar year- from summer 2006 through spring 2007 this office has proctored 1074 exams on behalf of faculty for students with disabilities. Once grades are in, we can review grade point averages and graduation statistics for students who received services over the past year.