UNDERSTANDING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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Center for Students with Disabilities

Internship Council

Fall, 2013
Eligibility for Accommodations

Any student with a documented disability is eligible to receive services from the CSD

Who is a person with a disability?

- By federal law, a person w/ a disability is any person who:
  - has a physical or mental impairment;
  - has a record of such impairment; or
  - is regarded as having such an impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, such as self-care, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing or learning

- A condition in and of itself may not be a disability
UConn’s Responsibilities

The law requires institutions to adapt existing requirements on a case-by-case basis in order to ensure that individuals are not discriminated against on the basis of disability.

Postsecondary institutions are not required to:

- Reduce, waive, or modify any of the essential requirements of a course or program
- Conduct testing or assessment of learning, psychological, or physical conditions
- Provide personal assistants or private tutoring
Student Responsibilities

At Postsecondary institutions, students have the responsibility to:

- Self-identify or disclose their disability to CSD
- Provide appropriate documentation
- Present professors at the beginning of each semester with accommodation letters, address how their performance may be affected, and what accommodation(s) they will need
- Maintain the same responsibility for their education as students who do not have disabilities
  - academic levels
  - appropriate behavior
  - timely notification of any special needs
Faculty & Responsibilities

At Postsecondary institutions, faculty & staff have the responsibility to:

- Discuss with CSD any concerns related to accommodation(s) that have been requested by a student
- Assure appropriate accommodations are provided, either by providing the accommodation themselves or through a TA or by making appropriate arrangements with the CSD
- Assist the student in contacting the CSD when no official notification regarding accommodations have been received from the Center
- Ensure course and department materials are accessible
The CSD currently works with over 1,500 students with disabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category Breakdown*</th>
<th>Spring 2013</th>
<th>Fall 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autism Spectrum Disorders</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Health Conditions</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaf or Hard of Hearing</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning &amp; Cognitive Disabilities (Communication, Reading, Writing)</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurological Disabilities</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>208</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Disabilities</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>145</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychiatric Disabilities</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Disabilities</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>48</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Nearly 11% of all students enrolled in postsecondary are students with disabilities according to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES, 2010); this means 3,328* students have a disability at UConn.

National Council on Disability estimates that the percentage is closer to 17%; which means as many as 5,143* UConn students have a disability.

With Next Generation Connecticut, we can expect to see a 6,500 student increase; at least 715 will have a disability – probably much higher.

34% of postsecondary students with ASD select a STEM major compared to 23% of general HiEd student population.

*Based on Fall 2012 enrollment
Increasingly Complex Accommodation Requests

- Service/Assistance animals
- Extended time for course assignments
- Staggered exams/Various formats for exams
What We Know for Sure

- We need awareness of fundamental components of courses and internships
- We have an ever changing student population
- Higher Education is an increasingly changing landscape

A continuous need for professionals to be responsive to the needs of students with disabilities
Connect with CSD

- website: csd.uconn.edu
- email: csd@uconn.edu
- Voice: 6-2020; TDD: 6-2077

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