disABILITY Advocate 101

A Program of Services for Students with Disabilities at the University of Texas at Austin
Mission

The disABILITY Advocate Program educates and empowers people to create accessible, welcoming and inclusive environments and experiences for people with disabilities while embracing disability as an aspect of diversity.
How Would You

Bystander intervention is recognizing a potentially harmful situation or interaction and choosing to respond in a way that could positively influence the outcome.

1. Recognize the Harm

2. Choose to Respond

3. Take Action
Disability is Natural

• 1 in 5 Americans reports having a disability
  – (US Census, 2010)

• The majority of disabilities are invisible

• A disability is only one part of a person’s life
Types of Disability

• An individual with a disability is defined by the ADA as a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

• Visual vs. Invisible
• Unique to each individual
• Stable vs. fluctuating/progressive

• Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
• Autism
• Deaf/Hard of Hearing
• Learning disabilities
• Medical Disabilities
• Mobility Disabilities
• Psychological Disabilities
• Visual Disabilities
Students Registered with SSD 2018-2019

- ADHD: 31%
- Autism: 1%
- Hearing: 31%
- Learning: 14%
- Medical: 10%
- Mobility: 2%
- Psychological: 1%
- TBI: 1%
- Temporary: 1%
- Visual: 1%

The University of Texas at Austin

What starts here changes the world
Students Registered with SSD 2018-2019

- ADHD (2292)
- Autism (95)
- Hearing (143)
- Learning (1041)
- Medical (761)
- Mobility (107)
- Psychological (2951)
- TBI (33)
- Temporary (17)
- Visual (82)
Who We Are

- 15 staff members
- ~3,000 students using services
- Office located on the 4th floor of Student Services Building
- Assistive Technology Equipment Center (ATEC)
- 15 testing spaces
- Walk In hours
  - M-F 10am-3pm

What We Do

- Determine student eligibility for academic accommodations
- Approve classroom and testing accommodations
- Consult with faculty and staff
- Provide resources and referrals
- Coordinate outreach education and awareness across campus
- Testing Fund/Scholarships
Think “how” not “if”

People often assume the way they do things is the only way

How are different ways to provide access in the following scenarios?
Access is a Right

Federal law protects the rights of people with disabilities to ensure full participation and equal opportunity for people with disabilities

- Rehabilitation Act of 1973
Accessibility and Inclusion

**Accessible**
capable of being used or seen: available; easy to speak to or deal with (Merriam-Webster)

**Inclusive**
meaningful participation and ... a sense of belonging (DDCE Value Statement)
Accessible or Inclusive?
Barriers to Accessibility and Inclusion

- Physical Barriers:
  - lack of ramps/elevators, visual/auditory/tactile signage

- Instructional Barriers:
  - Inaccessible materials, timed tests, iClickers, videos without captions

- Attitudinal Barriers:
  - discrimination, disbelief, prejudices, stereotypes
Reducing Barriers is Everyone’s Responsibility

- Housing and Food Services
- Information Technology Services
- Facilities Services
- Parking and Transportation Services
- ADA Coordinator
- Services for Students with Disabilities
- Departments, Advisors, Professors
- You
Say the Same Thing…Differently

Person with a disability vs. disabled person

Living with a disability vs. suffering with a disability

Confined to a wheelchair vs. using a wheelchair
Accessible or Inclusive?
The Bigger Picture

- Disability is a natural part of life
- There are many different ways to accomplish a task
- Disability is part of our campus diversity
- Recognize and reduce barriers in their many forms
- We have to be accessible but should strive to be inclusive
- We all have the ability to be an Advocate!
Stay Connected!

UT-Austin’s Services for Students with Disabilities

@UT_SSDisability

http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability
Thank you for participating in SSD’s disABILITY Advocate Program!

It takes all of us to create a more inclusive, accessible and welcoming environment for people with disabilities.

For more information about the disABILITY Advocate Program or SSD’s services please call 512-471-6259 or visit us at [http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/](http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/)