

Access for Students with Disabilities

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Center for Educational Access

Basic Information

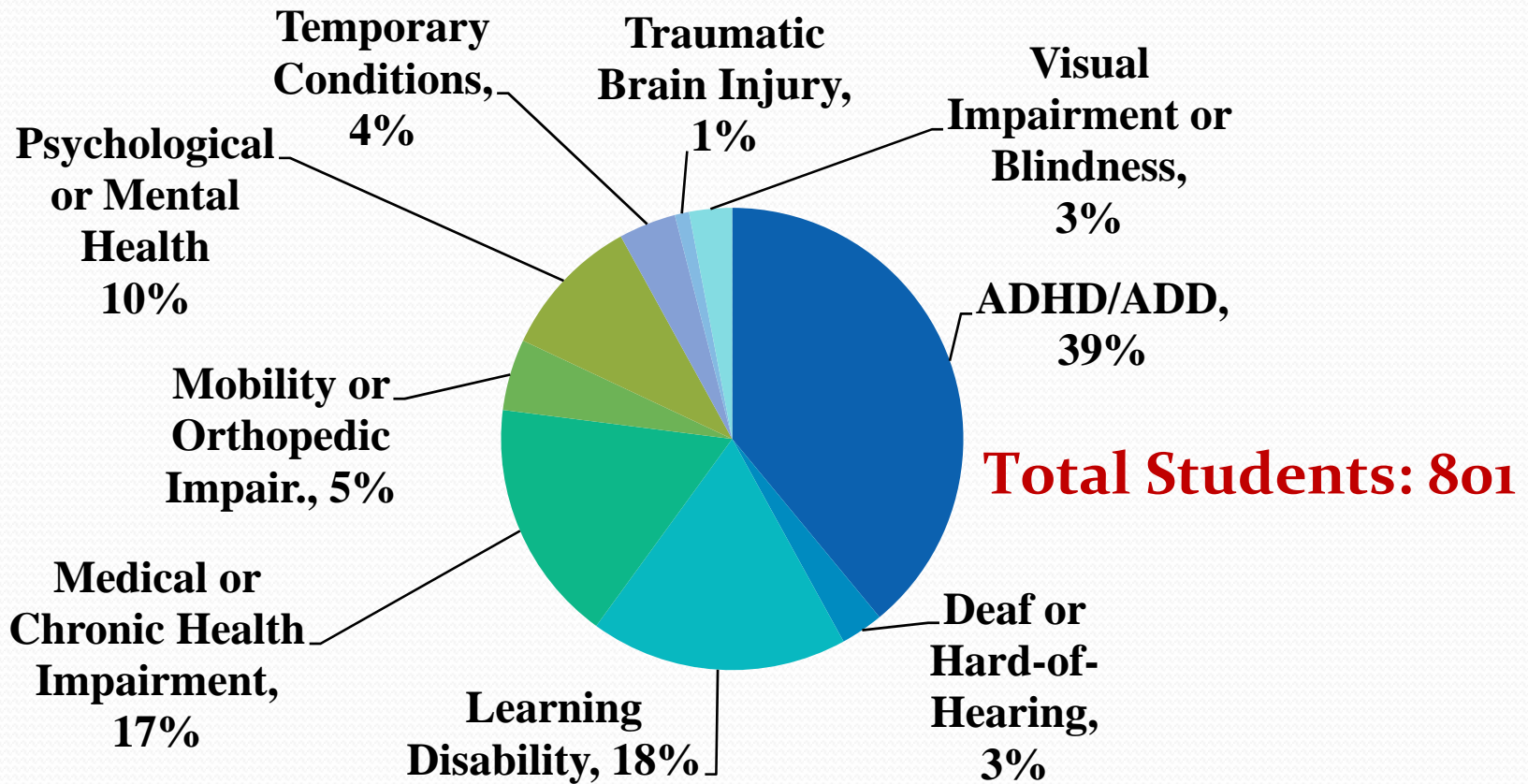
- **Location/Contact Information:**
Room 104 Arkansas Union
Website: <http://cea.uark.edu>
Phone 479-575-3104 (V) or 575-7445 (F)
E-mail: ada@uark.edu
- **Days/Hours:** Monday – Friday, 8am-5pm
- **Staffing:** Director, Assoc. Director/Technology, Assistant Director/Access, 3 administrative staff, 3 GA's, 15 hourly (lab assistants, golf cart drivers, transcriptionists, text conversion staff)

Center for Educational Access: Purpose

- **Verify students' eligibility** to receive services and accommodations on behalf of the university
- **Communicate their needs** to other areas of the institution (faculty/instructional staff, housing, dining services, tutoring resources)
- **Facilitate formal and informal accommodations** “in house”
- **Provide resources, education and consultation** to the university on access

University of Arkansas

Students with Disabilities (2007-08)



Receiving Accommodations at the University of Arkansas

- Students schedule a “**registration meeting**” to discuss needed services and **provide CEA with documentation** from appropriate professional
- **Accommodation requests are reviewed** by staff in light of supporting documentation and barriers they may experience at the university
- **Approved accommodations are listed on “accommodation letters”** written by CEA staff, and must be requested by the student for each semester needed

Typical Accommodations

- Extended time for exams
- Distraction-reduced examination environment
- Notetaking Assistance (copy of other student's notes)
- Accessible formats of printed material (Braille, e-text)
- Assistive Technology
- ASL Interpreters and transcription (captioning)
- Housing/Dining needs
- Early class registration
- Golf-cart transportation

Legal and Policy Mandates

- **Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504)** – requires reasonable accommodation and access *to all programs and activities* of the university
- **Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)** – vastly extended Rehab. Act; provided facility and construction guidelines
- **University of Arkansas Academic Policy Series** – 1520.10 (regarding reasonable accommodations & course substitutions) and 1520.20 (regarding exam accommodations)

Examination Accommodations: Academic Policy 1520.20

- “Faculty members should plan, with the assistance of their chair or dean or information or training from the CEA if needed, how required accommodations will be provided ***for those students requiring (only) extra time or a relatively distraction-free environment.***”
- “For students with disabilities who need alternative exam formats (e.g., Braille), a reader, a scribe, enlarged print, assistive computer technology, or other appropriate and reasonable accommodations ***the faculty member should contact the CEA...for assistance with administering exam(s).***”

Facilitating Accommodations: Student Responsibilities

- ***Follow appropriate registration procedures*** with the CEA
- ***Request, pick up and deliver accommodation packets*** to each instructor each semester
- ***Meet with each instructor*** to discuss needs and how accommodations are to be facilitated
- ***Give reasonable notice*** for requested accommodations (i.e., NOT the day of the exam)
- ***Meet the expectations of the course***

Facilitating Accommodations: Faculty/Instructor Responsibilities

- ***Make arrangements*** with students with disabilities to meet accommodation needs
- ***Facilitate accommodations*** as listed on accommodation letter/packet
- ***Contact CEA*** if accommodation requests do not align with course expectations or method of delivery
- ***Hold students with disabilities to an equal standard*** to others in the class (i.e., grading, behavior)



Sample Accommodation Letter

Challenges and Barriers

- **Student issues** – transition from K-12 environment, self-advocacy, episodic nature of some disabilities, differences in needs from class to class, medication side-effects, concern for privacy
- **TA instructional issues** – exam accommodation arrangements, limited control over syllabus or course content, limited time to make arrangements, balancing other student needs

Recommendations for TAs to Maximize Access for SWD

- ***Create welcoming environment*** – syllabi statement, mention availability to speak privately
- ***Confirm accommodation arrangements via e-mail*** to the student (“paper trail”)
- ***Make advance arrangement for exams*** (talk to faculty advisor/dept secretary/building supervisor for ideas)
- ***Team up!***
- ***Create file*** for accommodation letters of SWD
- ***Follow up*** with students periodically to check on accommodations
- ***Contact CEA*** with questions, student concerns, support, and for alternative accommodation ideas



Questions?

Thanks for all you do to assist students with disabilities and to make the University of Arkansas accessible!