

11-13-2017

Joint Council on Academic and Student Affairs Meeting : 2017 : 11 : 13 : Student Disability Services Presentation

University of South Florida St. Petersburg. Office of the Regional Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

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Recommended Citation

University of South Florida St. Petersburg. Office of the Regional Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs., "Joint Council on Academic and Student Affairs Meeting : 2017 : 11 : 13 : Student Disability Services Presentation" (2017). *Council on Academic and Student Affairs*. 10.

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STUDENT DISABILITY S E R V I C E S

Diversity through dis_ABILITY

LEGAL CONTEXT

1973 REHABILITATION ACT SECTION 504

- First federal civil rights legislation protecting rights of individuals with disabilities
- All programs receiving federal financial assistance (including federal financial aid)

1990 AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

- Also applies to the private sector
- Covers employment

2008 ADA AMENDMENTS ACT

- Liberalizes the standard of disability
- Determining whether an impairment is a disability should not demand extensive analysis

HOW IS DISABILITY FRAMED?

Frame	Core	In Practice
Individual (Medical)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Locate the problem within individual• Focus on specific conditions/diagnosis• Do not internalize disability as an identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cure or fix problem• Disability is negative• Individual accommodations
Sociopolitical	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Locate problem in environment• Barriers those with disabilities and set parameters of disability experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work to identify and eliminate barriers• Disability is neutral• Appreciation for community and culture• Create sustainable change

DISABILITY DEFINED

“ Person with disability” means an individual who: has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; has a record of such an impairment; or is regarded as having such an impairment.”

	IDEA	ADA
Statute	Ensures free and appropriate public education for children with disabilities	Protects Individuals with disabilities from discrimination by providing equivalent access to programs and services
Coverage	Children in the K-12 system whose education is negatively impacted by the disability. There are specific disabilities covered, so not all students with disabilities will be protected	Any person with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities
Initiating Services	Parents and teachers identify students needing assistance through consent for evaluation and Child Find	Students must self-identify as an individual needing assistance due to a disability by supplying the appropriate documentation from a qualified evaluator
Documentation	School districts are responsible for providing the means for a student to be evaluated	The student assumes the cost of the documentation
Education Plans	Individual Education Plans (IEP's) are developed and tracked through the student's educational process	Reasonable accommodations are provided on a case-by-case basis
Enforcement of Laws	A funding statute, enforced by the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services in the US Department of Education	A Civil Rights statute enforced by the Office of Civil Rights, US Department of Education, US Department of Justice and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

USFSP SDS STATISTICS FALL, 2017

- Number of Registered Students - Approx. 205
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- Types of Disabilities:
 - Learning Disability - 51
 - ADD - 43
 - Combination - 16
 - Psychiatric - 38
 - Mobility - 15
 - Visual - 8
 - Hearing - 4
 - Medical - 30
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- Number of Proctored Exams (2016-2017) - 860
- Caseload for Academic Coaches (9/17 – 11/17) - 16 students
- Average GPA for SDS students, Spring, 2017 - 3.19

WRAPPING IT UP

- *Disability is not an individual problem that needs to be fixed or cured...Disability is a natural part of life and should be a valued identity group.*
- *The **similarities** of students with disabilities and students without disabilities are more significant than their differences.*
- *A disability is what a person has, not what they are. It is just another aspect of diversity.*
- *Beware of stereotyping...dependency and helplessness are NOT characteristics of PWD. PRESUME COMPETENCE! Treat with dignity. They are not victims!*
- *The primary manifestation of discrimination against people with **differences**—a disability or otherwise—is **exclusion**.*

STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES FACULTY RESOURCE GUIDE

- **Includes:**
- Testing Guidelines for Students and Instructors
- SDS Forms
- Frequently Asked Questions such as:
- “What should a faculty member do if they suspect a student has a disability?”
- Etiquette for Working with Students with Disabilities
- Other Resources

- **For a copy of this Guide, please contact Barry McDowell at mcdowell@usfsp.edu.**