Three Branches of Student Success

WVU Office of Accessibility Services

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Our goal:

The Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) is dedicated to enhancing the educational opportunities for students with temporary or permanent disabilities on all West Virginia University (WVU) campuses. To ensure access to University programs, specialists work individually with students, faculty, staff, and administration to assist in the implementation of accommodations that lead to academic and personal achievement.
Three Branches of Student Success

- **Advocacy** - OAS utilizes a customer service approach to promote student-instructor inclusion.
- **Collaboration** - OAS collaboratively works with other departments to assist in accommodating the student.
- **Innovation** - OAS places high importance on the innovation and adaptation of current and appropriate student services.
Self-Advocacy

“Rite of Passage”

Independent decision-making and the ability to express one’s needs are two critical parts of self-advocacy.
Myth #1

• Avoid labeling the student with a diagnosis because it can be damaging to their self-esteem....
Suggested Practices

• Teach the student how to describe their disability, strengths, weaknesses, etc.

• Accept the diagnosis, and use it to determine your learning needs. Do not let it determine your identity.

• Sample accommodations.
Myth #2

• Just because the student has accommodations at a post-secondary level guarantees their needs will be met.....
Suggested Practices

• Take responsibility.
• Practice becoming more assertive.
• Get to know the instructors in the program.
Myth #3

• Obtaining the highest grades possible is the best way to measure self-advocacy....
Suggested Practices

• Enjoy relaxing and growth oriented activities. (rec center)
• Seek a balance academically and socially.
• Get involved in an activity on campus.
• Seek a professionals help for personal difficulties. (Carruth Center)
Myth #4

• When students encounter a difficult situation, it is best for their parents to take over...
Suggested Practices

• WVU Parents Club.
• Parents need to let go, let them know gently.
• The most valuable lesson a student can learn as they enter adulthood is about consequences.
• Students need to learn to ask for help from those that can provide it in the post-secondary setting.
“I am not being accommodated”
OAS Asks students:
Have you spoken with your Faculty member about your accommodations and how they will be implemented?
Forms
COLLABORATION
HIPPA VS FERPA

- **FERPA**, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, applies to most school health records most of the time.

- **HIPAA**, the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act, applies to some school health records some of the time.
HIPPA VS FERPA

HIPPA (Protected Health Information PHI)
- Any physical or mental health record of an individual.
- Excluded from educational records and treatment records in FERPA.

FERPA (Educational Records)
- Records maintained by the university directly related to a student.
- May include: academic, health information, accommodation requests...
- Does not require consent for: school officials with legitimate educational interest, parents, health and safety...
Interactive Process: We are all under FERPA
Faculty and Staff Can:

• Ask students who you see are struggling academically?
  • What do you think would help you here at WVU?
  • Have you ever gotten assistance in classes before?
  • Did you have an IEP or 504 plan in high school?
  • Did you ever attend a class that was more like tutoring then teaching you subject matter?
• If “YES” to any of the above please urge them to come speak to us to see if we may be of assistance
When Speaking with a Student:

• Be direct
  • At times you may need to describe all steps even ones you find to be intuitive

• Break information into small chunks
  • Give students processing time

• Have students repeat information or put it into their own words

• Follow up with an email with the information or steps the students has to complete

• Don’t be afraid to ask for an Accessibility Specialist to team an advising session
Innovation
Good morning!
CART
(Verbatim)

“In addition, let me see where I was, I want to see in your research, technical support.”

TypeWell
(Meaning-for-meaning)

“I want to see technical support in your research.”
Preparing for class

• Collaborate with instructors
  • Vocabulary and terminology
  • Class conventions
  • Material for captioning
Working with instructors

• How not to work with instructors
Today’s show is about friends.
Closed Caption

• YouTube Caption Fail
Benefits of speech-to-text services

- Promotes self-advocacy
- Facilitates collaboration
- Creates more readily attainable access to communication
- Promotes autonomy
- Participation
- Removes barriers
Sources


Strada Communications, Inc. (2015, March 5). What is TypeWell Transcription? [Video file]. Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bN0-6C1S3fU