



OFFICE OF  
Educational Accessibility  
(OEA)

**“AT SOME POINT IN THEIR LIVES  
MOST PEOPLE WILL EITHER HAVE  
A DISABILITY OR KNOW  
SOMEONE WHO HAS ONE.”**

**Coleen Boyle, Ph.D.**

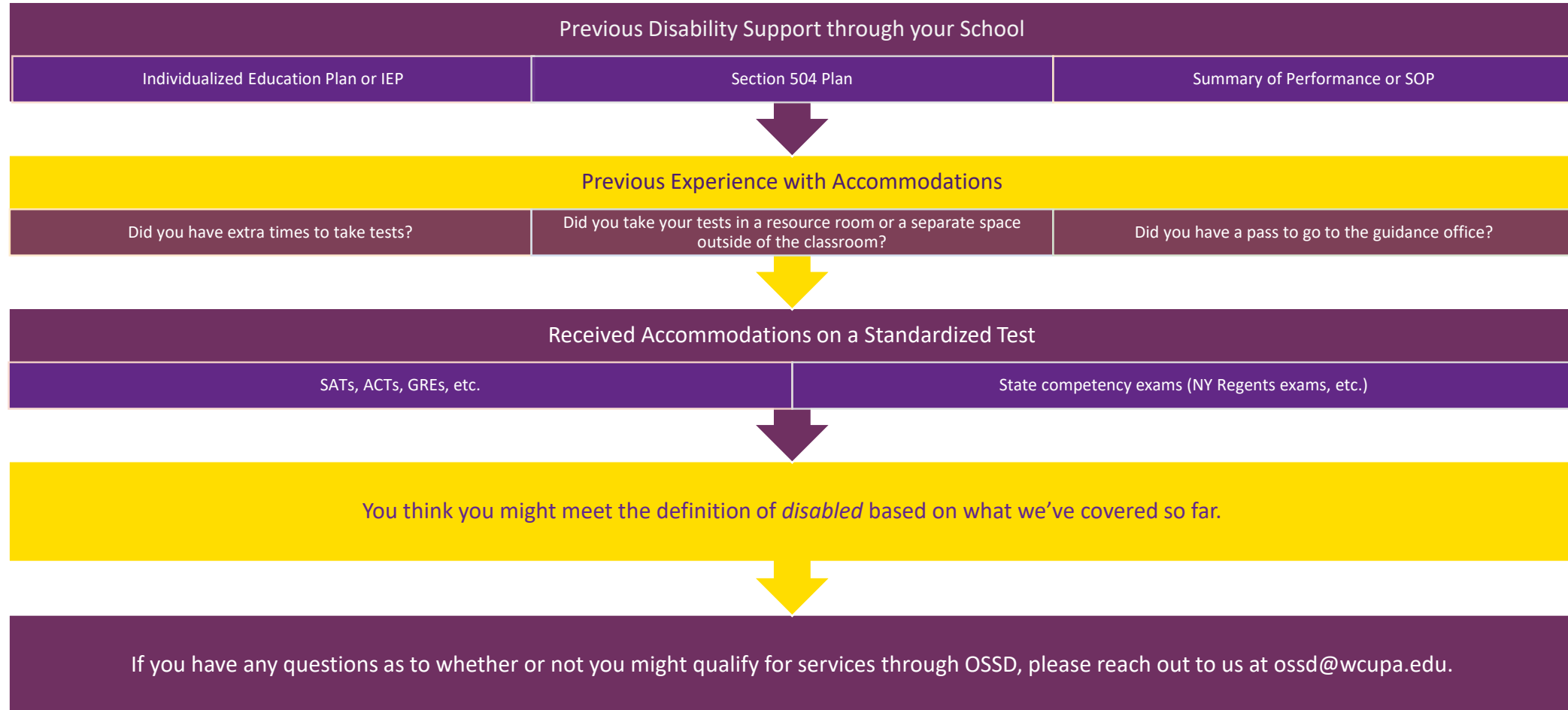
**Director, Centers for Disease Control**

**National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental  
Disabilities**



- A disability **substantially limits** the ability of an individual to perform a major life activity **as compared to most people in the general population** and **need not substantially limit other major life activities.**
- An impairment that is **episodic or in remission** is a disability if it would substantially limit a major life activity when active;
- The effects of mitigating measures **will not be considered** in assessing whether an individual has a disability.

# HOW DO I KNOW IF I FOR SUPPORT THROUGH OEA QUALIFY?





# RESPECT

- We recognize and affirm your right to personal autonomy including your right to choose whether to disclose a disability beyond OEA or at all. The Letter of Accommodation contains no information other than what accommodations the professor is required to make available. *The choice to share anything further is entirely up to you.*
- We respect that you have the right to tell your own story in your own way. OEA will not share anything related to a diagnosis, treatment, or anything else related to your status with OEA without your express permission.
- We recognize the associated right to self-determination and the responsibility of self-advocacy. OEA will only advocate on your behalf at your request and will keep you abreast of any action being taken on your behalf.
- We respect a person's right to their own language of reference including their language of disability, gender, race, sexuality, etc. OEA recognizes that language has power and will honor your language of reference in interactions with you and concerning you.

# New experiences mean new rights and responsibilities ...

## Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade (IDEA and Section 504)

- Standard is **free and appropriate public education (FAPE)**
- **Modifications** to the curriculum or standards may be appropriate
- **Responsibility** for **identifying** disabled students falls **on the school**

## Higher Education (ADA and Section 504)

- Standard is **reasonable accommodation**
- No **fundamental alteration** or **undue burden**
- Students must **self-advocate**
- **Responsibility** to acquire supporting documentation **falls to the student**

**Step 1: COMPLETE THE OEA ONLINE STUDENT DISCLOSURE FORM.** Once you submit the online Student Disclosure Form you will receive an email that includes information about the type of documentation required; all documentation must be submitted via email to [OEA@wcupa.edu](mailto:OEA@wcupa.edu)

**Step 2: SUBMIT APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION VIA EMAIL** to [OEA@wcupa.edu](mailto:OEA@wcupa.edu). Documentation will be reviewed to determine if we have the information, we need to begin the interactive process. We will contact you if we need any further information.

**Step 3: ATTEND AN INITIAL MEETING:** We will contact you to schedule a one-on-one initial meeting. Initial meetings generally last for 20-30 minutes and are currently being scheduled via Zoom or in-person.

## 3-Step Disclosure Process



Scan this QR code to begin the  
**OEA 3-Step Process**  
Log in using your  
WCU credentials

# A Note on Equity

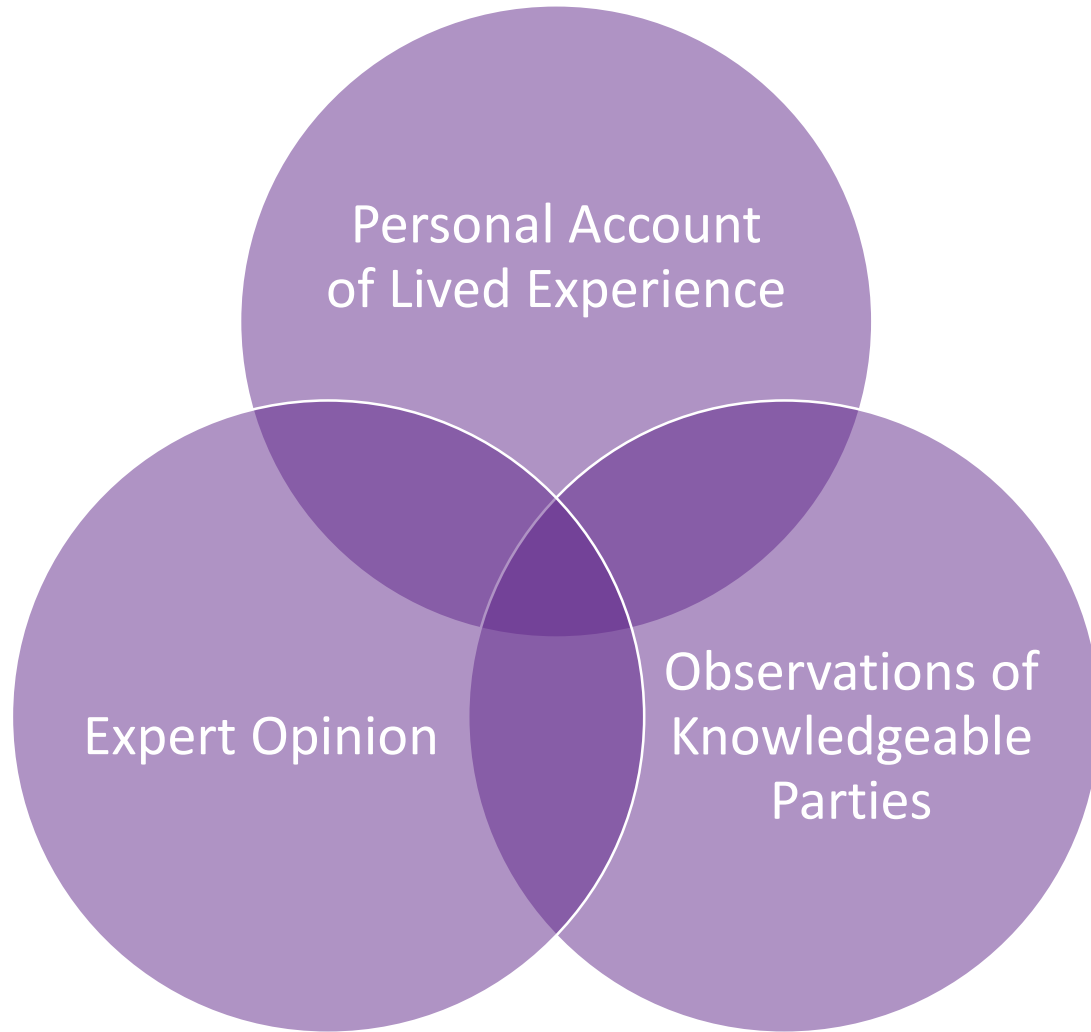
We recognize the historical and systemic inequities that exist within our healthcare systems and in society-at-large. These disparities can often have adverse and unintended consequences that further marginalize populations.

We recognize these disparities exist among our students and can directly affect a student's ability to provide traditional forms of documentation.

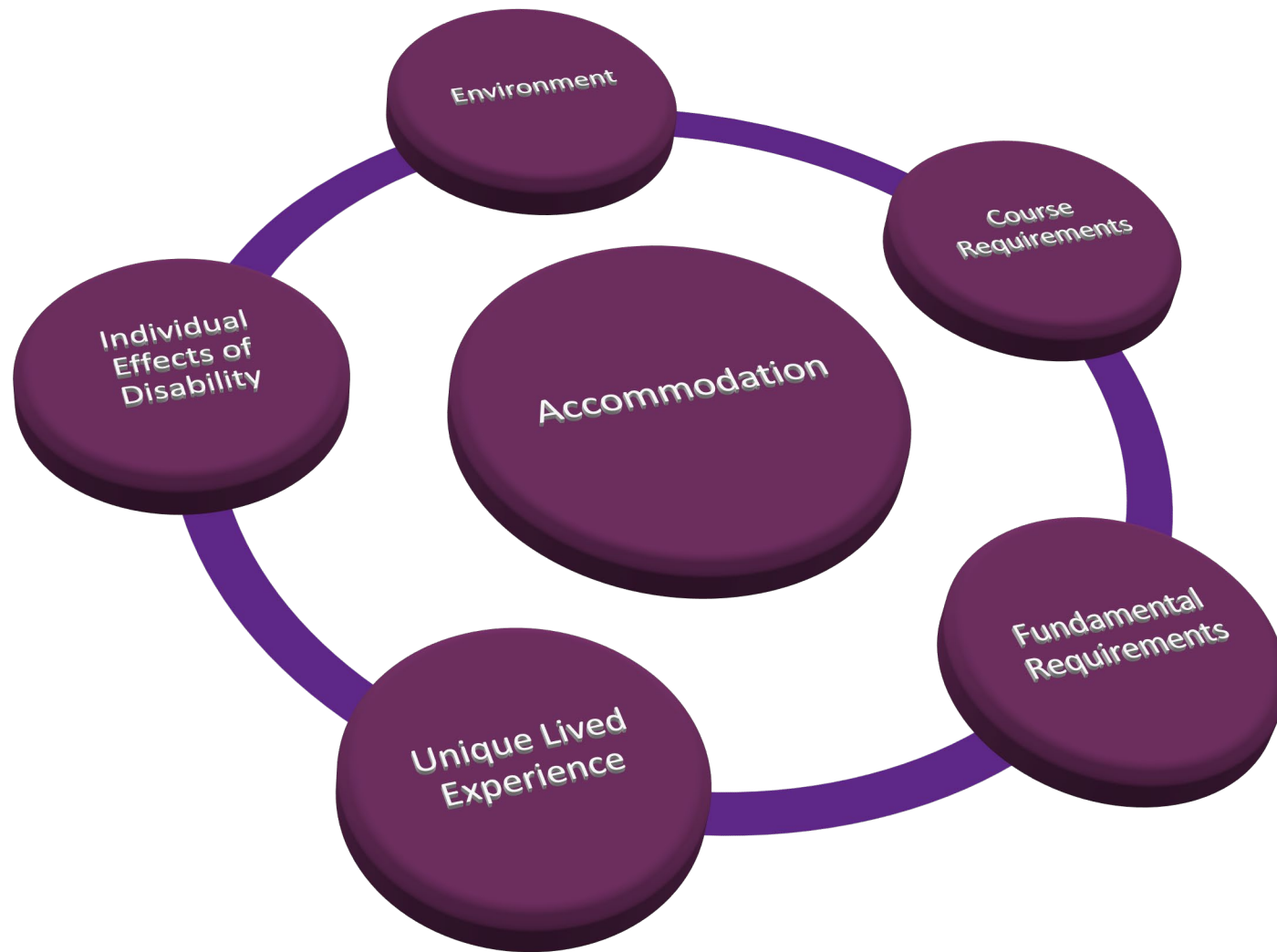
We are committed to working with every student to find appropriate and creative ways of ensuring access in every aspect of their experience at WCU!

***No one should ever delay reaching out to OEA because they feel like they lack appropriate documentation.***





## UNDERSTANDING DISABILITY AND ITS IMPACTS: HOW DOCUMENTATION IS EVALUATED IN OEA



**No “blanket rules”.** Each decision takes into account the facts specific to each accommodation request

**Accommodations decisions** only take into account *one* student in *one* situation

Accommodations decisions do not take **anyone else** into consideration.

Accommodations, *by definition*, make the course *fair* rather than providing a **disabled student** with any sort of **unfair advantage**.



Scan this QR Code to  
Access a Campus Map

Lawrence Center is across from the  
new *SECC Building* between the  
*Student Recreation Center* and  
*University Hall* at  
**702 S. New Street**

# Facilities

## Lawrence Center 223

Administrative Offices

Academic Coaching Spaces (1:1)

Proctoring Lab (10 person capacity w/ a 6 person overflow)

Meeting and Training Space

Individual Mindfulness/Sensory-Friendly Retreat Space

Individual Testing Spaces

Free Library/Book Exchange

Waiting Area and Study Zone

Academic Coaching  
Services

(In-Person and Remote)

Proctoring Services

(In-Person and Remote)

Assistive Technology  
Consultations

(In-Person and Remote)

Notetaking  
Coordination

Alternate Format  
Textbooks and  
Materials

Technology  
Lending Program

ASL Interpreters

(In-Person and Remote)

CART Captioning  
Services

(In-Person and Remote)

# Services

Workforce  
Recruitment  
Program

Delta Alpha Pi  
International  
Honor Society

Community  
Outreach

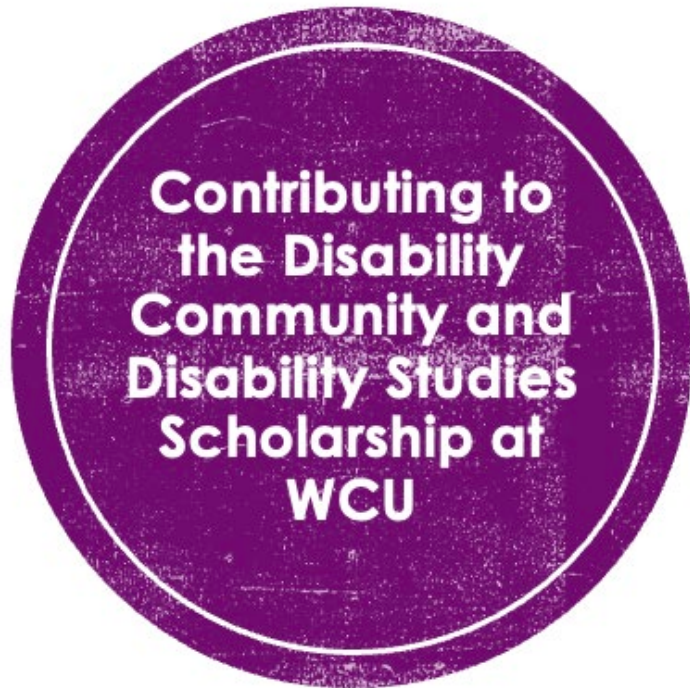
OSSD Ambassador  
Program

Mindfulness  
Program  
(Individual and Group)

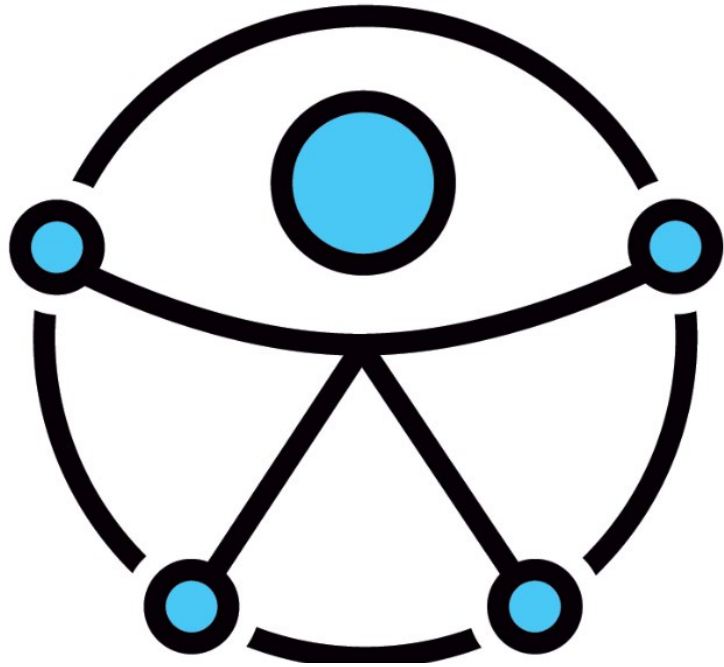
Disability Studies  
Lectures and  
Workshops

Research  
Presentation and  
Conference  
Opportunities

# Programming



- We're curating a **bibliography** of West Chester's contributions to this growing field on our website.
- **Tell us about *your* research!** If you are working on research that is relevant to the **Disability** or **Disability Studies** communities, please let us know.
- **Include people with disabilities in your research!** Disabled people are often systematically and specifically excluded from research which is not directly concerned with their clinical condition.
- Include disabled **perspectives** in your research!
- If you're interested in having your **call for participants** or **research project** included in our monthly newsletter, please let us know!



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- Linda Laskaris  
Administrative Support  
[llaskaris@wcupa.edu](mailto:llaskaris@wcupa.edu)
- Susan Durkovic, RPR, CRC  
CART Captioner  
[sdurkovic@wcupa.edu](mailto:sdurkovic@wcupa.edu)



Scan this QR code to begin  
the  
3-Step Intake Process  
Log in using your  
WCU credentials