



OFFICE OF

**Educational Accessibility**

**(Serving Students with Disabilities)**

**“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 CAN STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR ACCOMMODATIONS THROUGH OEA?

## Previous Disability Support through your School

Individualized Education Plan or IEP

Section 504 Plan

Summary of Performance or SOP



## Previous Experience with Accommodations

Did you have extra times to take tests?

Did you take your tests in a resource room or a separate space outside of the classroom?

Did you have a pass to go to the guidance office?



## Received Accommodations on a Standardized Test

SATs, ACTs, GREs, etc.

State competency exams (NY Regents exams, etc.)



- We recognize and affirm a student's right to personal autonomy including their 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 the student.*
- We respect that the student has the right to tell their own story in their own way. OEA will not share anything related to a diagnosis, treatment, or anything else related to a student's status with OEA without their 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**

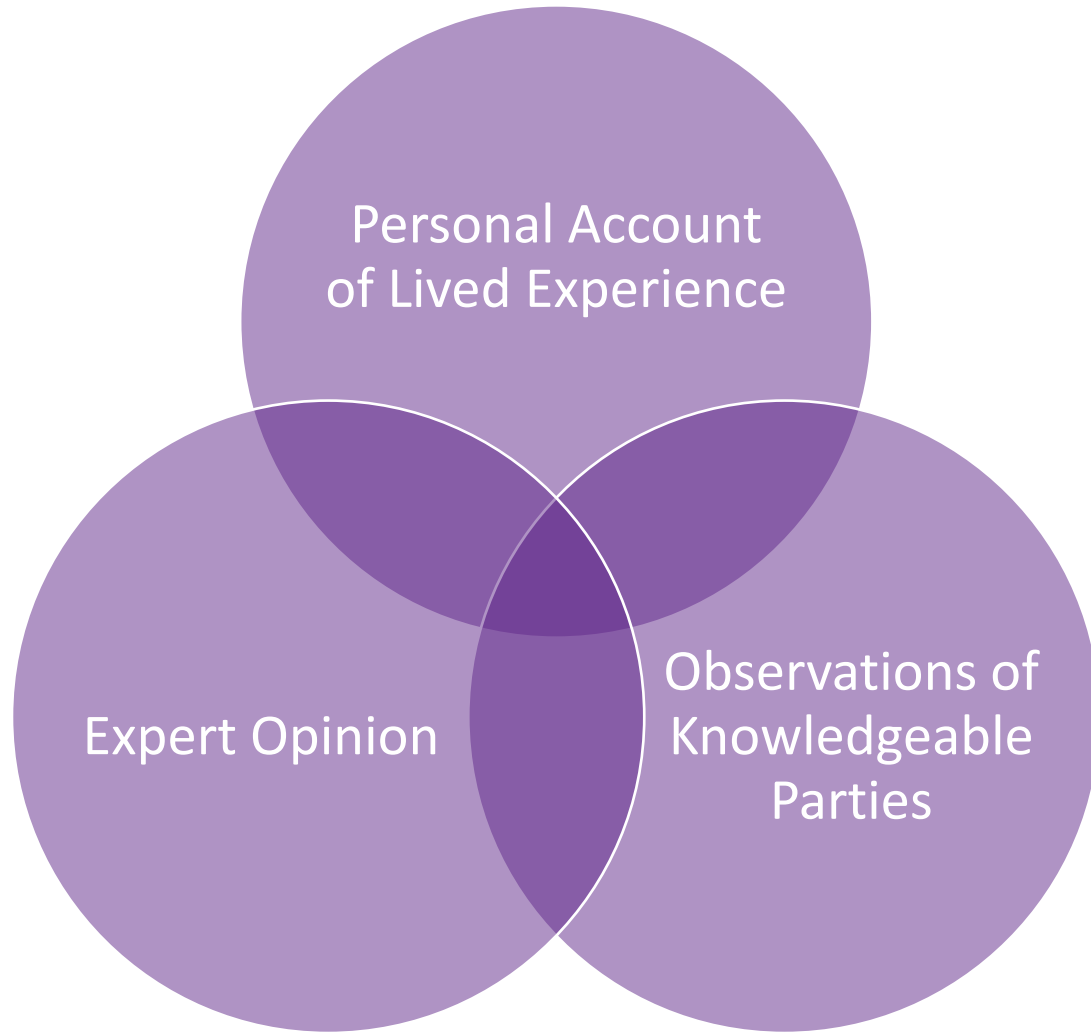
# A Note on Equity

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.

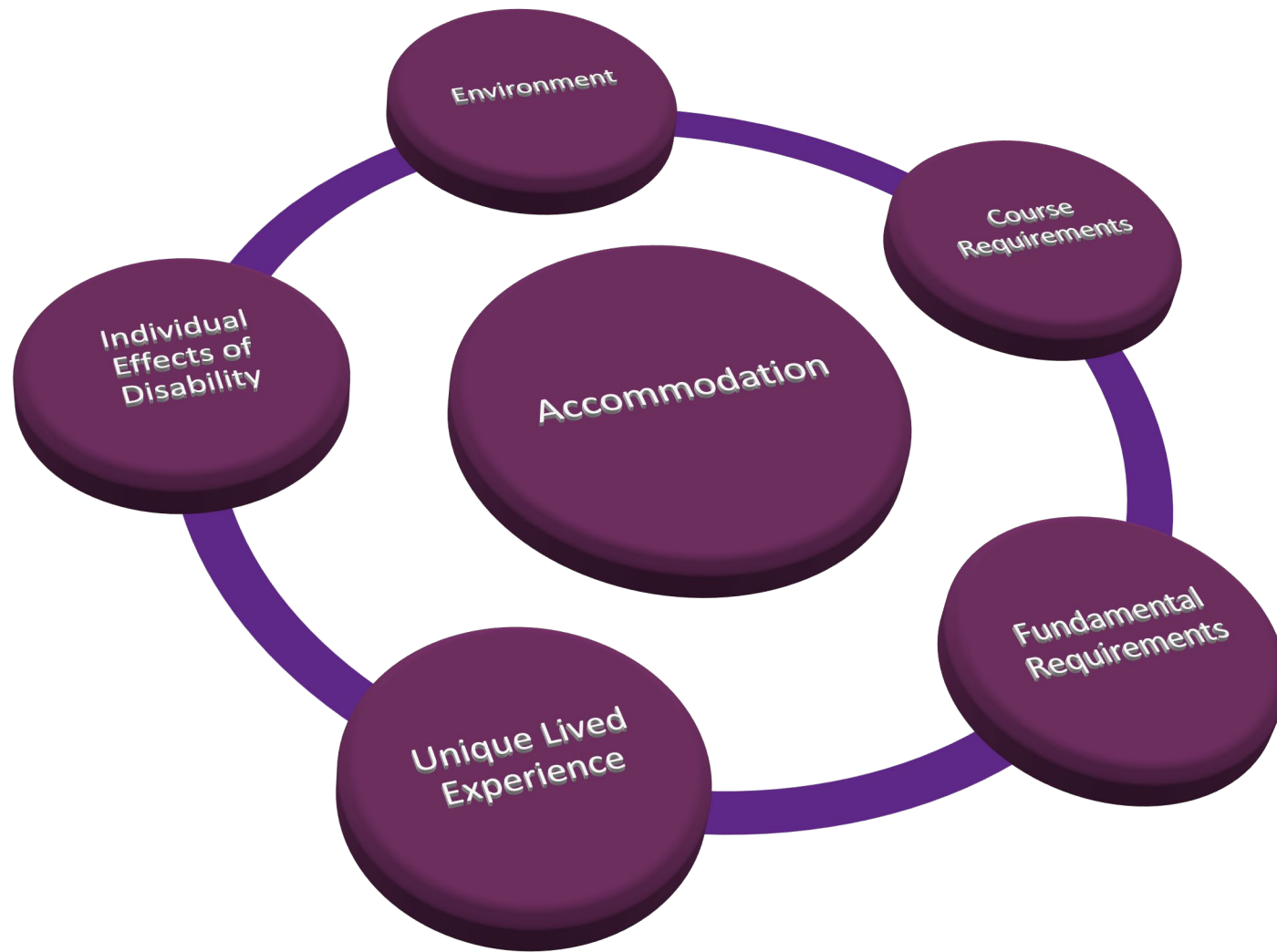
We are committed to working with every student to find appropriate and creative ways of ensuring access in every aspect of their experience at WCU!

***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

Extended Time  
Testing

Distraction  
Reduced (or Small  
Group) Setting for  
Testing

Flexibility with  
Assignment  
Deadlines

Modified  
Attendance  
Agreement

Zoom  
Accommodations  
(for Online  
Courses only)

Assistive  
Technology

Staff and AI  
Scribes

Alternate  
Format Texts or  
Materials

Alternate  
Means of  
Participation

# Classroom Accommodations



# Non-Academic Accommodations and Services

Delta Alpha Pi  
International  
Honor Society

Student-led  
Support Group

Ambassador  
Program

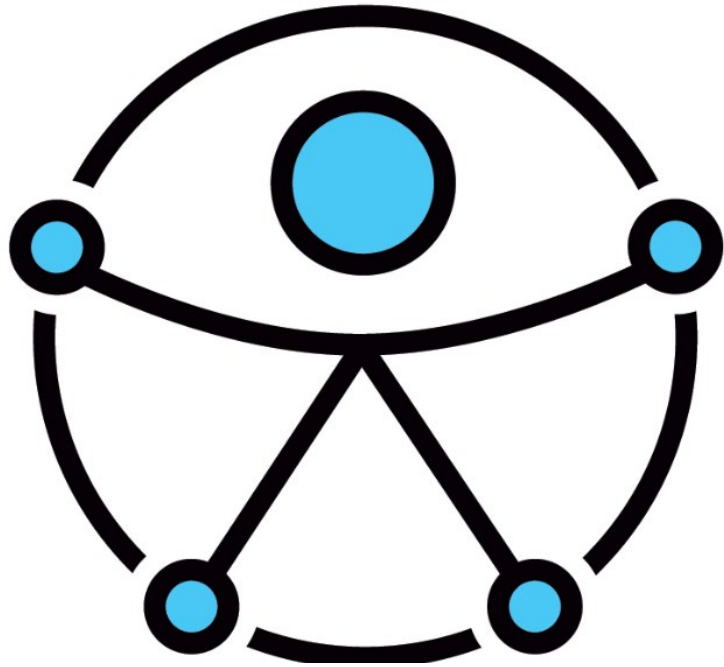
Transition Day

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!

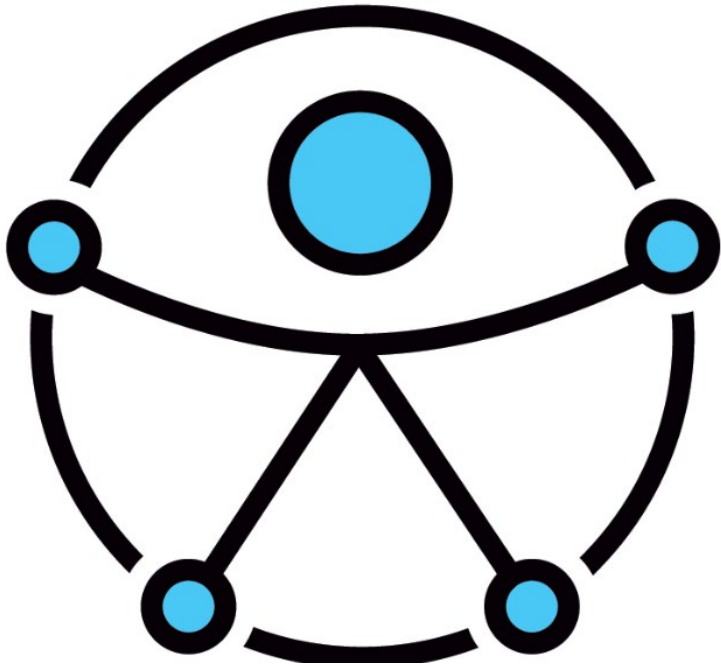


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CART Captioner  
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Scan this QR code to begin  
the  
OEA Disclosure Process  
Log in using your  
WCU credentials



# Common Email Addresses for OEA

General Office Email

[oea@wcupa.edu](mailto:oea@wcupa.edu)

Proctoring Center (for any testing related questions)

[oeapc@wcupa.edu](mailto:oeapc@wcupa.edu)

Communication Access (for questions related to CART Captioning, ASL Interpreters, and alternate format materials)

[oeaca@wcupa.edu](mailto:oeaca@wcupa.edu)

Graduate Assistants (for questions about coaching)

[ossdga@wcupa.edu](mailto:ossdga@wcupa.edu)