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?

If you have any questions as to whether or not you might qualify for services through OSSD, please reach out to us at ossd@wcupa.edu.

You think you might meet the definition of disabled based on what we’ve covered so far.

If you have any questions as to whether or not you might qualify for services through OSSD, please reach out to us at ossd@wcupa.edu.
• 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.

DEFINITION OF DISABILITY*

*BASED ON THE FINAL RULE OF 2016
New experiences mean new rights and responsibilities ...

Pre-K through 12th 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.

Step 2: SUBMIT APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION VIA EMAIL to 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.

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

Personal Account of Lived Experience

Expert Opinion

Observations of Knowledgeable Parties

Based on the Association for Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) Guidance on Documentation Practices for Supporting Documentation Requests available at https://www.ahead.org/professional-resources/accommodations/documentation
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.
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

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
Services

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)
Programming

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

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