Wrapping up the Semester and Preparing for Finals!

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How to register with ODS

1) Go to ods.txstate.edu

2) Click the paw print icon labeled “Register With ODS”

3) Fill out the Confidential Student Information Form. Registration for services with ODS requires this form.

4) Send any additional documentation of the student’s disability to our office, email ODS at ods@txstate.edu, or fax at 512.245.3452.

5) ODS will review the need for accommodations and support services based on the student’s disability documentation and disability-based need. ODS has 30 business days from receipt of the documentation to decide appropriate accommodations.

6) ODS will notify the student to set up an appointment via Texas State email after determining appropriate accommodations.

7) After meeting with an ODS Specialist, the student can sign up for Special Groups Registration and request their Accommodation Letter in our office or on our website. The Accommodation Letter will be ready within 72 hours.
Recent Events

Pictured Left: Texas State senior staff members pose with guest speaker, Dr. Angela Y. Davis.; from left to right, Dr. Sherri Benn (Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs and Director of Student Diversity and Inclusion), Dr. Clint-Michael Reneau (Director of Office of Disability Services), Dr. Angela Y. Davis (Honored Guest Speaker), and Dr. Joanne H. Smith (Vice President of Student Affairs). (March 31)

Pictured Below: Students, staff, and faculty pose for a picture alongside Dr. Angela Davis at a reception held in her honor. (March 31)

Pictured Above: Dr. Angela Davis takes photos with audience members after her speech around social justice and the impact of global capitalism. (March 31)

Pictured Right: Janet Mock poses with Texas State staff members after her dialogue with students; pictured from left to right, Joshua Love, Sophia Joseph, Skyller Walkes, Janet Mock, Dr. Clint-Michael Reneau, Jessica Soukup, and Gerardo Altamirano. (April 5)

The Office of Disability Services would like to extend a very special recognition and thank you to Skyller Walkes for her hard work organizing both of the trailblazing events pictured above. Hosting Dr. Angela Y. Davis and Janet Mock at Texas State would not have been possible without her vision and leadership.
Pictured Top Right: The new inductees of the Delta Alpha Pi Honor Society pose for a photo at the ODS Annual Appreciation Luncheon. (April 19)

**Pictured Left** Dr. Clint-Michael Reneau gives the opening remarks, guest speaker, Daniel Gutz delivers the ODS Student Welcome, and Skyller Walkes gives the closing remarks at the ODS Annual Appreciation Luncheon. (April 19)

**Pictured Bottom Right:** The ODS staff pose for a photo at the Annual Luncheon. (April 19)

**Pictured Left (1):** Gerardo Altamirano poses with award recipients Matrice Brown (Left; Richard Ross Nesenholz Memorial Scholarship) and Jose Angel Gonzalez (Right; Blake Edward Jaksa Scholarship). (April 19)

**Pictured Left (2):** Matrice Brown poses with his instructor, Professor Susannah Patricia Brown, recipient of the Linnette Watkins Award. (April 19)

**Pictured Above:** Dr. Alyson Collins presents her research and work around students with reading-related disabilities and the importance of assessment to students and staff as part of the Delta Alpha Pi: Disability Studies and Advocacy Dialogue Series. (April 24)

**Pictured Above:** Dr. Tichelle Bruntmyer presents her research around students in correctional education facilities and the causational trends with trauma and emotional and behavioral disorders. (April 13)
Staff Spotlight:
Sophia Joseph
Administrative Assistant III

How long have you worked with ODS?
June 1st, 2009 was my first day of employment with the Office of Disability Services.

What responsibilities do you have with your position?
I am responsible for providing administrative and general clerical support to the director. I oversee the department budget as well as provide front office support to students and staff.

What advice do you have for student success?
Since it is May and graduation is around the corner, I will provide a tip to the students preparing to graduate that was helpful to me when I was embarking on that journey. To avoid getting stuck in a post-graduation rut or becoming unemployed, check in with yourself regarding your goals every few months. Make sure they are still on track by asking yourself some questions: where will you be living, where will you be working, and how will you support yourself three years after graduation? You would be amazed at how often that internal conversation actually helps. If you force yourself to say I’m going to complete XYZ, it forces you to begin to imagine what that future is and subconsciously starts to help you achieve those goals.

What is your favorite thing about working with ODS?
I think it is to be able to watch how students transform from freshmen orientation until graduation. From being able to witness them learning how to advocate for themselves and know that they can ask for help with support from their team, families, and people around them. That would be followed up by the graduation ceremonies, obtaining employment, and continuing their education.

What hobbies do you enjoy outside of the office?
I enjoy spending time with my family and friends.

In what ways do you feel you are able to assist and have assisted students beyond the scope of your job responsibilities? Why is this important to you?
The key word here is intersectionality. When different marginalized groups stand in solidarity, don't accuse them of fusing different forms of oppression. Instead, recognize the synergy between various movements of liberation, and work on educating other people with privilege on these connections. An ally understands the relationship between our seemingly different types of oppression, therefore understanding the importance of working in solidarity. That doesn't mean drop the current organizing work you're doing, but incorporate others' needs and use whatever privileges you have to the benefit of the group you claim to be an ally to — not speak for them, but open the space that was given to you for them to speak for themselves. Once we realize that our struggles are linked, we stand a much greater chance at being able to be in true solidarity with one another.
**Student Worker Spotlight:**

**Nathaniel Roberson**

**Q: What is your classification and major?**
I am a Senior who is graduating next month with a B.A. in Political Science with a minor in Business Administration.

**Q: What career opportunities do you plan to pursue after graduating next month?**
I hope to eventually pursue a career in law.

**Q: What advice do you have for students preparing for Spring final exams?**
I would advise students to start preparing now. The earlier you start studying the better off you'll be come test day.

**Q: What hobbies do you enjoy doing outside of work and the classroom?**
I have a passion for music. So most of my spare time involves music, whether it be playing music, discovering new music, or attending concerts and live shows. I also enjoy playing video games in my free time.

**Q: What has been your favorite thing about working with ODS?**
Over the past four years, my favorite thing about being at ODS has been the great people I have been blessed to work with. The work environment at ODS is very fun, and everyone is supportive of each other.

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The Office of Disability Services would like to extend a heartfelt congratulations to all the students graduating this Spring and Summer. This is the culmination of years of hard work, and our office is proud of all of you walking the stage. Good luck with all of your future endeavors Class of 2017!
Letter from the Editor, Garreth Casper

It has been an honor to serve as the editor for the ODS Newsletter this year. I have learned so much working in The Office of Disability Services; supporting students, the intersectionality of identities, and about a variety of topics about equity and access. Our office has reached out to so many students throughout the course of this academic school year, and I am proud to have been a part of that.

Garreth Casper (gcc26@txstate.edu)

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Tips for Finals Preparation

**Form a study group** - The other students in your class can be some of the best resources available to you. Studying in a group gives you an opportunity to help each other with difficult concepts, compare notes, and help identify correct answers from previous tests and quizzes as a team.

**Create study cards** - Study cards are great for studying on the go! Testing yourself with key dates, terms, definitions, and concepts in rapid succession helps strengthen your ability to recall the material.

**Review prior tests, quizzes, and homework assignments** - Usually most of the material on a comprehensive final exam includes similar questions to those you have already seen throughout the semester. If a concept was important enough to test you on the first time around, it’s probably important enough to be on the final as well.

**Explain the course material to a friend** - Talking about the material and having an opportunity to recite it and explain it to other people helps strengthen your depth of knowledge regarding the material. Sometimes the best way to learn is to teach!

**Take care of yourself** - Proper sleep and eating habits do wonders with keeping your head in the game. Try to avoid all-nighters and plan your schedule in a way that includes looking out for your own self-care.

**DO NOT PROCRASTINATE** - Waiting until the night before to study for an exam is a surefire way to ensure that you won’t do as well as you potentially could. Set up a study schedule for yourself and follow through with it. You’ll be happy you did.