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ACCESSIBILITY IN ACTION

The Newsletter of the Office of Disability Services at Texas State University

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Our Vision and Mission

The Office of Disability Services will strive to become a model program serving students with disabilities in higher education. We are committed to developing a society in which individuals with disabilities thrive and participate fully. These individuals will be challenged to become responsible decision-makers, problem solvers and self-advocates in charge of their own destiny. We envision a campus community where all individuals are seen as valued and contributing members of society. Respect for all will encompass everything we do.

The mission of the Office of Disability Services is to ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to all university programs and activities. We provide students the opportunity to reach their full potential by:

- coordinating academic accommodations and support services
- promoting independence and self-advocacy
- providing information and referral to appropriate resources

We help to foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment by:

- building and maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff
 - promoting disability awareness among all members of the university community
- providing guidance regarding university policies and procedures to ensure

Welcome from ODS Director Clint Reneau!

Welcome to the Bobcat Nation! One of my goals for when you graduate from this institution is that you are an informed citizen. I want you to leave Texas State feeling informed and empowered. There are offices at Texas State that will help you feel both of these things, and the Office of Disability Services (ODS) is one of them. We challenge you to learn all you can, get involved and make a difference while at our university, because we recognize that while here, you should feel supported, encouraged, and included. ODS is here to help you meet those needs in order to become a successful Bobcat!



ODS staff highlight:
Mrs. Amalie Wheat –Deaf and
Hard of Hearing Services Co-
ordinator

Fall Back to School Issue!

- Bobcat Preview
- How to Request ODS Accommodations
- Counseling Center Student Success Workshops
- Academic Support
- ODS Open House
- Meet the ODS Staff



How Do I Request Accommodations?

You can request accommodations for a disability at any time during the semester, but the earlier you do so, the better!

Guidelines for accommodation requests, including forms and lists of required documentation, can be found on the ODS website at <http://www.ods.txstate.edu/current-student-resources/how-to-register-with-ODS.html>.

Once you are approved, you will be reminded via email to request accommodation letters at least 72 hours prior to the start of classes. Once you have picked up the letters from the ODS office (5-5.1 LBJSC), you have 12 days to visit the professor to discuss the accommodations, obtain signatures, and return the form to the ODS office. Then, your accommodations are in effect!

TXST Counseling Center Workshops and Support Groups—Together, We Are Stronger

College can be stressful, no doubt about it. Sometimes, you just need someone to talk to, or some advice on how to overcome anxiety, procrastination, or other issues that can affect your performance in the classroom. The TXST Counseling Center offers individual sessions with trained counselors, workshops on stress, time management, and test-taking strategies as well as support meetings for a variety of differently-abled groups. Visit counseling.txst.edu/outreach/DEAL or call 512-245-2208 for more information and a schedule of support group meetings and workshops for the fall semester. To sign up for an individual counseling session, go to the Counseling Center (LBJSC 5-4.1) to fill out paperwork and schedule an intake meeting with a licensed counselor.

Self Advocacy—YOU are the Key to Your Success

The best advocate for what you need in accommodations from ODS is YOU! ODS expects students to be active participants in the accommodation process. You understand your disability better than anyone, so don't be afraid to express your needs to ODS staff and to faculty members so that you can receive the most appropriate accommodations. They are always patient and willing to listen so that, together, you can find the best solution. Also, remember that a good self-advocate knows how to compromise, when necessary, for the good of the situation, but never settles for an accommodation that doesn't work. It's YOUR education—speak up!



Upcoming Dates:

ODS Open House

Coming Soon!

DOD Civilian Career Fair Expo

September 18, 9am-3pm, University Ballroom, UTSA

The Department of Defense will be conducting interviews for a variety of positions. Persons with disabilities encouraged to apply. For more information, contact Tina James at (571)-372-2125.

Announcement:

Student Support Services has now moved to Sterry Hall!

(South entrance across from Edward Gary Parking Garage)

ATSD - Meet Your Testing Home

If you have a testing accommodation, you will be taking your exams with ATSD during your time at Texas State. The Academic Testing for Students with Disabilities (ATSD), is located in the basement of Commons Hall. Stop by before your first exam and learn more about the office! This is an excellent opportunity to relieve pre-test jitters by meeting the staff, touring the testing facilities, learning ATSD testing procedures, and even getting help with signing up for your first test using the ATSD online scheduling system. To schedule a tour, call 512-245-7856.

ODS Open House

The Office of Disability Services (ODS) will be hosting an open house this semester. Students are invited to drop by and meet the ODS staff in an informal setting, tour the offices, pick up literature for ODS and other campus services for students with disabilities, and ask questions they might have. An announcement will be posted to TRACS before the event.

Academic Support Resources

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services—TXST has a range of services available, including sign language interpretation, closed-captioning, and other resources. For more information, or to request services, visit <http://www.ods.txstate.edu/current-student-resources/Deaf-and-Hard-of-Hearing.html>.

Parking—Faculty, staff, and students with a TXST parking permit and a state-issued disabled hangtag or license plate may park in any non-reserved designated disabled parking space on campus. For more information, or to order a TXST parking permit, visit the Parking Services website.

Service Animals—Faculty, staff, and students who have a service animal should visit <http://www.ods.txstate.edu/current-student-resources/Service-animals.html> for the latest criteria.

Academic Support Services—From the Math Lab to the Modern Languages Lab to the Writing Center, TXST has a variety of resources designed to help students succeed. If you need help, ask your instructor if there is a lab for your class. If there is not one, there is always SLAC (Student Learning Assistance Center), located on the 4th floor of Alkek Library, where you can find help with a variety of subjects, and private tutors (for a fee) if you need extra assistance.

Academic Advising—All colleges have an academic advising program. Use it! Helpful advisors will keep you on track for graduation.

Thought for the Day

Be authentic to your dreams. Be authentic to your own idea about yourself. Grind away at your own minds and bodies until you become your own invention. Be Mad Scientists.—Warren Ellis

Meet the ODS Staff

ODS Staff are friendly, knowledgeable, and always available to meet your needs. Here are the members of the ODS office for 2014-2015!



ODS Staff from Left: Shannon Thornblad, Bianca Rodriguez, Tabitha Williams, Director Clint-Michael Reneau, Bruce Coonce, Sophia Joseph, Amalie Wheat, David Hunt, Marsha Burney, and Skyller Walkes.

Bobcat Preview in Review

Bobcat Preview was a success! ODS staff had the pleasure of welcoming incoming Freshman during move-in and during Bobcat Preview. We showed our Bobcat Pride while giving tours at the football stadium and hope that you will be in the stands to cheer on our sports teams!

~ Eat 'Em Up Cats!

Tip of the Week

Many persons with physical disabilities require stair lifts in their homes. If you are shopping for a stair lift for you or for a family member, here are some things to consider from Easy Climber:

<http://www.easyclimber.com/how-to-choose-a-stair-lift/>