Our New Mission and Vision

**Mission**
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. We help to foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment through an intersectional model that helps build and maintain partnerships across the university community.

**Vision**
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 campus community in which individuals with disabilities thrive and participate fully. These individuals will be challenged to become responsible decision-makers, problem solvers and self-advocates with agency in their own education and future. 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.
How to Register with ODS

1) Go to ods.txstate.edu (Pictured to the right)

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

3) Fill out the CSI (Confidential Student Information) Form. This is required to register for services with ODS.

4) Send any additional documentation of the student's disability to our office, through the website, or fax to 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 up to 30 business days of receipt of the documentation to decide appropriate accommodations.

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

7) After meeting with an ODS specialist, the student can sign up for Special Group's Registration and request their Accommodation Letter in the ODS office. The Accommodation Letter will be ready within 72 hours.
## High School vs College Accommodations (IDEA vs ADAAA)

### High schools must:
- Identify students with disabilities
- Provide assessment of learning disabilities
- Involve parents in decision-making
- Provide non-academic services
- Modify educational programs
- Prepare Individual Education Plans (IEPs)
- Provide a free and appropriate education
- Help each student reach their potential

### Post-secondary institutions must:
- Protect the student’s right to privacy and confidentiality (this includes conversations with parents)
- Provide equal access to programs and services that are offered to students without disabilities
- Make information available to students regarding office locations and procedures for requesting accommodations
- Evaluate documentation
- Determine whether the student’s disability substantially limits one or more major life activities which would qualify the student for accommodations
- Provide reasonable accommodations, meaning those accommodations that enable the student to compete equally with their peers without disabilities
- Provide reasonable and equal access to generally available programs
- Make reasonable classroom adjustments that do not alter the integrity, essential components or technical standards of a course or program
- Inform students of their rights and responsibilities

### Post-secondary institutions are not required to:
- Reduce or waive the essential requirements of a course or program
- Provide evaluations or testing to diagnosis a disability
- Provide personal attendants
- Provide tutoring beyond what is available to all students
- Prepare IEPs
- Ensure a student is academically successful
- Keep parents informed

### The student is responsible to:
- Disclose their disability to the ODS and provide documentation in a timely manner
- Know about the nature of their disability and how the accommodations help
- Act on his/her own behalf as an independent
- Discuss classroom and testing accommodations with faculty members in accordance with university policy
- Arrange and pay for personal care attendants if needed

Taken from [http://www.ods.txstate.edu/parents/parent-information.html](http://www.ods.txstate.edu/parents/parent-information.html)
## Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ODS Presents: Tips &amp; Tricks</td>
<td>August 31</td>
<td>11AM - 1PM</td>
<td>LBJSC HUB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Welcome Reception</td>
<td>September 5</td>
<td>6PM - 8PM</td>
<td>LBJSC Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome to the Family</td>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>6PM - 8PM</td>
<td>LBJSC Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veteran &amp; Family BBQ</td>
<td>September 9</td>
<td>10AM - 2PM</td>
<td>Sewell Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Monthly Luncheon</td>
<td>September 12</td>
<td>11AM - 1PM</td>
<td>LBJSC 3-15.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobcats CREW Initial Meeting</td>
<td>September 14</td>
<td>12PM - 2PM</td>
<td>LBJSC 3-12.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healing Arts</td>
<td>September 14</td>
<td>3PM - 6PM</td>
<td>LBJSC 3-15.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic Student Welcome</td>
<td>September 14</td>
<td>6PM - 8PM</td>
<td>LBJSC Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Student Welcome</td>
<td>September 18</td>
<td>6PM - 8PM</td>
<td>LBJSC 3-13.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mama’s Kitchen</td>
<td>September 19</td>
<td>12PM - 2PM</td>
<td>LBJSC Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous Student Welcome</td>
<td>September 20</td>
<td>6PM - 8PM</td>
<td>LBJSC 3-3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino HIV/AIDS Awareness</td>
<td>October 5</td>
<td>11AM - 3PM</td>
<td>LBJSC HUB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guest Speaker: Gabby Rivera</td>
<td>October 18</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes Awareness Event</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World AIDS Day</td>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>8AM - 7PM</td>
<td>Student Rec Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Catalog Corner . . .** *Our space to share current events and interesting finds.*

- Accommodations for Deaf and Hard of Hearing music fans at live-music concerts and music festivals are gaining traction. Read how the multi-genre music festival, Lollapalooza, held annually in Chicago, IL is at the forefront of accommodating Deaf and Hard of Hearing music fans here: [Deaf Music Fans Are Finally Starting To Be Heard](http://heidilatskydance.com/meondisplay/)

- The internationally recognized dance company, Heidi Latsky Dance, is hosting a campaign known as #MeOnDisplay. The goal of this campaign is for people with disabilities to share images of themselves to combat the unrealistic standards of beauty in the media. Read here for more information: [http://heidilatskydance.com/meondisplay/](http://heidilatskydance.com/meondisplay/)
Congratulations to Joshua Love and Jessica Soukup for Receiving the Excellence in Diversity Team Award!!!

Awarded annually through the Office of Equity and Access, the Excellence in Diversity awards honor staff and faculty who go above and beyond in their commitment to diversity at Texas State. Here’s what Joshua and Jessica had to say about receiving their awards: “We received this award for our dedicated work in actively creating a more inclusive campus for Trans and Queer students. During the 2016-2017 academic year, we have worked intentionally on the educational components both within the LGBTQIA community and without at Texas State. Our commitment in the last year was to say “YES!” whenever we were asked to offer presentations and facilitated discussions around gender diversity. We will continue our work into the new academic year to help ensure that Gender Diverse students at Texas State know that they are welcome here.”

Pictured from left to right: Joshua Love, Dr. Stella Silva, and Jessica Soukup

Congratulations to Skyller Walkes, Texas State’s Employee of the Month for September!!!

Tips & Tricks: Passport to Academic Success
At the beginning of each semester, the Office of Disability Services engage students with advice around academic support to help them prepare for the semester ahead. This year we added a fun and engaging trivia game with the chance to win prizes. Be on the lookout for us and our new colorful spinning wheel in the future!

ODS Visits the Round Rock Campus
On August 15, 2017, the Texas State - San Marcos ODS staff paid a visit to the Texas State - Round Rock campus to learn about the services offered there. Pictured below are photos from that site visit.

Chat with the Chief
At the beginning of every semester, the University Police Department engages the student body and answers questions about their services with their Coffee with Cops and Chat with the Chief events. ODS support these events by answering questions about our joint departmental program, Cats on the Go, for students with temporary disabilities.
Tips and Tricks to a Great Semester

- Get organized early on! Use the syllabi from your classes and a planner or calendar to write down important deadlines and events where you will see them often. The more organized you are at the beginning of the semester, the smoother the semester will feel.
- Try to do readings before class if you can. Exposing yourself to the material before lectures will help improve retention and your overall understanding of the material. Additionally, reading before class gives you the opportunity to form questions about the material which you can then ask during class.
- Get together with classmates to study. They can offer additional insight into difficult concepts and they can act as a support network as larger assignments, quizzes, and exams begin to approach on your schedule.
- Take advantage of your professors’ office hours. Not only is it a great way to have your questions answered, but establishing rapport with your professors is a great way to begin networking.
- Utilize the academic resources available to you on campus. Several of them are listed on the next page.
- Make goals for yourself and post them in plain sight. The frequent reminders will help you stay on target.
- Change what isn’t working. If mid-terms do not go as planned, re-evaluate your study methods and make changes accordingly.
- Practice self-care regularly! Even during the busiest parts of the semester, you still need to make time for eating, sleeping, conducting hygiene, and enjoying hobbies and activities.
Useful Campus Resources

**Academic Support Services**

- **Academic Advising Offices**
  [advising.txstate.edu](http://advising.txstate.edu)

- **Student Support Services**
  [http://www.sdi.txstate.edu/sss/](http://www.sdi.txstate.edu/sss/)
  512.245.2275

- **Student Learning and Assistance Center**
  Offers free tutoring to students
  [txstate.edu/slac](http://txstate.edu/slac)
  Aklek Library, 4th Floor  512.245.2515

- **The Writing Center**
  [writingcenter.txstate.edu](http://writingcenter.txstate.edu)
  ASN 100  512.245.3018

- **The Math Lab**
  [math.txstate.edu/resources/lab.html](http://math.txstate.edu/resources/lab.html)
  Derrick Hall 233  512.245.2074

- **PACE MAC Academic Coaching**
  Connecting students to academic tools
  [http://pace.txstate.edu/mac/](http://pace.txstate.edu/mac/)
  Commons Hall, 2nd Floor
  512.245.7223

- **Collaborative Learning Center**
  STEM tutoring for students
  [http://hlsamp.cose.txstate.edu/clc/clc-tutoring.html](http://hlsamp.cose.txstate.edu/clc/clc-tutoring.html)
  RF Mitte #4205  512.245.7464

- **Tutor Corps**
  Free tutoring for veterans from veterans
  [txstate.edu/tutorcorps/](http://txstate.edu/tutorcorps/)
  Alkek Library, 4th Floor  512.245.2515

**Additional Support Services**

- **Career Services**
  Free career preparation services
  [careerservices.txstate.edu](http://careerservices.txstate.edu)
  LBJ Student Center, 5th Floor (5-7.1)
  512.245.2645

- **The Counseling Center**
  Free counseling services to students
  [counseling.txstate.edu](http://counseling.txstate.edu)
  LBJ Student Center, 5th Floor (5-4.1)
  512.245.2208

- **Attorney for Students**
  Legal services for students
  [http://attorney.dos.txstate.edu/](http://attorney.dos.txstate.edu/)
  LBJ Student Center, 5th Floor (5-1.5)
  512.245.2370

- **Financial Aid and Scholarships**
  Office of financial aid services on campus
  [finaid.txstate.edu](http://finaid.txstate.edu)
  J.C. Kellam, 240  512.245.2315

- **iTAC**
  Information Technology Assistance
  [tr.txstate.edu/itac.html](http://tr.txstate.edu/itac.html)
  Math Computer Science (MCS), 2nd Floor
  512.245.4822

- **Bobcat Bond**
  Request a peer mentor
  [studentsuccess.txstate.edu/programs/bobcat-bond.html](http://studentsuccess.txstate.edu/programs/bobcat-bond.html)
  RMP Center for Student Retention
  512.245.5500