important dates for exams

• November 29th (Thursday): Last day to submit a request for a final exam
• December 3rd (Monday): Last day to submit a request for a regular exam
• December 7th-December 14th: Final exams are administered, excluding the weekend*
  * Final exams will only be administered on Dec 7th at ATSD for the following courses: MW 5PM, W 5PM, F 5PM, & F 6:30PM
  * Final exams will only be administered on Dec 14th at ATSD for the following course: MWF 8AM.

Please contact the ATSD office at 512-245-7856 if you have any questions regarding the dates above.

2018 final exam schedule

scheduling tests with ATSD

1) If you have testing accommodations, you can schedule all of your tests for the semester with ATSD
2) Go to ods.txstate.edu (pictured below)
3) Click the icon labeled “Schedule A Test With ATSD”
4) Under the Student tab at the top, select Request a Test
5) Using all of your syllabi, schedule all your tests for the semester early on to avoid future schedule conflicts;
Disability Awareness

What you missed in October

Disability Awareness Month (Dates to remember)

October 2 - World Cerebral Palsy Day
October 10 - World Mental Health Day
October 15 - White Cane Day
October 23 – 31 - Red Ribbon Week (Drug-Free America)

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.

*Documentation is not accepted via email. If you need to submit documentation electronically, contact ODS for a FileLocker, secure, upload link.

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 their Bobcat Mail after determining appropriate accommodations.
Flying with your Emotional Support Animal

Delta Airlines reported an “84 percent increase in reported animal incidents since 2016, including urination/defecation, biting, and even a widely reported attack by a 70-pound dog”. Due to this influx, Delta and American Airlines are cracking down on potential support animals. American Airlines is going as far as banning all “untrained” animals from flights. For now, the Department of Transportation has no uniform standards for emotional support animals. So in the meantime, airlines are enacting their own guidelines for passengers to follow. To learn more about these guidelines, read the article linked below.


I am Latinx, and Accepting My Mental Health Was the Bravest Thing I've Done

Ashley Jimenez, an editor and writer in New York City quotes in her article, “Seeking help was one of the most courageous acts I did for myself, and though I was scared of what most people in my family and community would think, with time, I let it go. Simply put, those who judge don’t matter, and those who care won’t judge.” To learn more about her journey, visit the article linked below.

https://www.popsugar.com/latina/What-Like-Have-Depression-Latina-45199439

Baltimore Orioles To Wear Braille Jerseys to Honor the Blind

On Sept. 18, when they played the Toronto Blue Jays at Camden Yards. That night, Orioles players and coaches wore first-of-their-kind big league jerseys with their names spelled in Braille, and the first 15,000 fans received Braille alphabet cards. One lifelong fan was especially excited about the jerseys, Merle Caples has followed the Orioles for nearly 60 years — first with her eyes, and now with her ears. Caples, 95, is blind.

Disabilities Affect 74 Percent of Likely Voters

Steve Barlett, a primary author of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 found that about 74 percent of likely voters are touched by a disability in a poll conducted by Frank Luntz PhD on behalf of RespectAbility. He quotes, “Our nation was founded on the principle that anyone who works hard should be able to get ahead in life. These folks deserve an equal opportunity to earn an income and achieve independence just like anyone else. Candidates for office ignore the disability community at their peril.”


No More Snakes on a Plane: American Airlines Restricts Emotional Support Animals

American Airlines announced a ban on untrained animals, effective July 1, that may pose a safety or public health risk. The Department of Transportation currently has no uniform standards for emotional support animals. Therefore, if you need to travel domestically with a support animal, you will need the following: signed medical or mental health professional document, veterinary certification of animal’s health, and signed confirmation of training form.


Paralyzed Patients Go From Wheelchairs to Walkers With Experimental Treatment

Two different groups of researchers have shown that electrical stimulation of the spinal cord, combined with months of intense training, can allow some people who have been paralyzed to regain some walking ability. This article displays hope for the future because technology is advancing greatly—which will be a continuous need for advancing therapy.

**What It’s Like to be a Disabled Model**

Models have bodies that are considered to be aspirational, and they strut down the runway as though they are giving an ode to able-bodied walking. Chelsea Werner, a gymnast and model with Down syndrome; Jillian Mercado, a model with spastic muscular dystrophy; and Mama Cax, a blogger, model, amputee, and disability advocate, all know this experience firsthand. These pioneers have been leading the way in diminishing the discrimination within the industry as well as paving the way for a new and widely diverse industry. Campaigns such as Aerie’s most recent, featured disabled models.


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**Is the Resume Dead?**

"The résumé has probably gone from about 40% to 35% of the hiring process to less than 10%," said Macy Andrews, senior director of human resources at tech giant Cisco. This article goes into non one page biographies to help in getting hired. Unlike a resume, an online profile will include first hand experiences as well as every communication between peers and potential employees/employers. A resume isn't usually the best tell tale sign of a new hire’s ability or skillset. Finding new ways to demonstrate ones traits will prove beneficial to new wave of job-seekers.


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**The Bold Beauty Project (BBP)**

BBP's subject is the bold beauty of women with disabilities. The goal -- to tell each model's story through her photograph (and an accompanying bio) to raise awareness about women with disabilities and change how people perceive a woman's beauty. All the photographed and models are volunteers. The People's Gallery in Austin's City Hall has decided to display the exhibit throughout 2019 as its first "themed show".

**A Final Proving Ground for Guide Dogs to the Blind**

A school for Seeing Eye dogs uses the chaos of New York City as its ultimate test when matching young dogs with their blind owners. New York City is a very busy environment for the dogs with many extreme urban conditions. Making it in New York City involves navigating obstacles and potential hazards from potholes to work zones to crowds of distracted pedestrians—not to mention the traffic.


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**Taraji P. Henson Wants to “Eradicate” the Stigma Against Mental Health**

The *Empire* star launched a foundation called The Boris Lawrence Henson Foundation after her father who suffered from PTSD after the Vietnam War. She stated, “There’s nothing to be ashamed of. Are you ashamed of a broken ankle? Are you ashamed of having to get a root canal?”


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**Berkeley Opens Universal Locker Room**

Many colleges have created small changing rooms for transgender students who use campus recreational facilities. However, this week, the University of California Berkeley is opening a large universal locker room with private changing areas and showers. This locker room is also expected to serve some students with disabilities or body image issues.

Starbucks opens first U.S. sign language store — with murals, tech pads and fingerspelling

The storefronts along Washington’s bustling H Street Northeast, is home to the countries first Starbucks dedicated to celebrating the deaf and hard of hearing culture. 24 deaf, hard-of-hearing and hearing employees run the shop using ASL. Employees and advocates say, the store is a step toward boosting employment opportunities for the deaf community while also immersing hearing individuals in deaf spaces.


How to Find the Right Therapist

“How goodness of fit is everything [in therapy],” says Dr. Colleen Cira, a licensed clinical psychologist. “Research is clear that the #1 determining factor in whether or not a client gets better from therapy is based on how strong their relationship is with their therapist. If you don’t like your therapist, you’re not going to get better, regardless of how well-trained they are.”

This article lists the best practices for determining what qualifies a successful therapist as well as the criteria for finding your best fit for a long term solution.

https://www.nbcnews.com/better/health/how-find-right-therapist-ncna896111

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https://www.nbcnews.com/better/health/how-find-right-therapist-ncna896111
The purpose of this initiative is to formulate a viable plan for students with disabilities, particularly blind or visually impaired students to familiarize themselves with new environments and infrastructure.

1. **What was the source of original inspiration for the 3-d printed map project?**
   **Harper Ream**: My original inspiration was trying to make a map that would help the most amount of people but do it in a way that's more exciting and different than a regular 2D map would be. I also wanted to help people who can't access or understand visual maps.

   **Alexander Savelyev**: From the point of view of an educator, my goal is to engage the students at Texas State with the latest directions in cartography and map making, with Harper's interest and dedication a prime example of what our undergrads can achieve when allowed to think "outside of the box".

2. **What will help you decide which area or areas of campus to potentially map?**
   **Alexander Savelyev**: The most likely criteria at this point is to identify the area that is most frequently traveled, so that it is both relevant to the intended audience and gives us an opportunity to learn more about what features the map should have, based on the experience of people who will likely end up using it.

**Pictured below**: Accessibility Coordinator Reggie Deal working on a 3-D initiative project.
3. Are you aware of other examples of 3-D printed maps for a similar purpose at another college or university?

Alexander Savelyev: Tactile mapping, as it is technically called, is a well-established area of work. A quick search would bring up a good summary of the latest academic investigations in this area, including such titles as "Cartography: Progress in Tactile Mapping" by Chris Perkins (2002). Examples of existing tactile campus maps (3-d printed or otherwise) can be found as well with relative ease.

4. Given the hills and extreme topography of the Texas State campus, does 3-D printing technology allow you to represent any of those features in a meaningful way that would make sense to someone feeling the map?

Alexander Savelyev: Yes, it is likely that variations in topography can be encoded within (and perceived from) a 3-d printed map. The caveat is in the term "meaningful" that you have used in your original question - this would depend as much on the nature on human perception as it would on the technological limitations and the specific area of campus mapped, hence an absolute firm answer would be somewhat elusive.

5. You showed me a small scale model map that had been printed, it was approximately 1.5 feet by 1.5 feet. How long did this map take to print?

Harper Ream: Although the sample map was only 3.5 by 7.5 inches, it took about 12 hours (and two attempts) to print.

6. When 3-d materials are created with the printing process typically available, is the printed media always using plastic or are there other types of printing technologies that also serve this purpose?

Alexander Savelyev: Using 3-d printing (i.e. additive manufacturing process) in its narrow sense, the use of plastic or metal is most common, although other materials (e.g. clay) were used as well. Tactile maps in general could be made by other means, of course, using techniques such as plastic molding, automatic cutting of paper, metal and wood, etc.
Get to Know the Staff

Elizabeth (Liz) Zabawa: General Disability Specialist

How long have you worked with ODS?
I have been with the Office of Disability services since August 2018.

What responsibilities do you have with your position?
I am a General Disability Specialist here in the office. I review documentation on students and approve them for accommodations that will help them be successful in their classes.

What advice do you have for student success?
Learning new things can be hard and transitions are not always easy. Take one day at a time, ask questions, get help if you need it, and don’t forget to take care of yourself.

What is your favorite thing about working with ODS?
Two things: I get to meet new students every day and I love the people I work with.

What hobbies do you enjoy outside of the office?
Dance: I take classes at ballet Austin: contemporary, modern, Zumba, cardio hip hop and cardio dance. I am also really obsessed with college football. I am proud to say that I have a former student who plays for the Wisconsin Badgers.

Nova Jet: Accessibility Services Graduate Assistant

How long have you worked with ODS?
I have worked with ODS for 3 weeks

What responsibilities do you have with your position in ODS?
I am responsible for uploading alternative texts onto TRACS, holding students appointments with those requesting alternative texts, and working on any projects my supervisor may request of me.

What advice do you have for student success?
I think that using campus resources and building a support network are two significant steps towards student success

What is your favorite thing about working with ODS?
I love being in a supportive environment that strives to grow and facilitate diversity on campus.

What hobbies do you enjoy outside of the office?
Outside of work and school, I enjoy swimming in the river & spending time with friends.
Get to Know the Staff

Reginald “Reggie” Deal: Accessibility Coordinator

How long have you worked with ODS?
Roughly 2 months

What responsibilities do you have with your position in ODS?
Primary focus in assistive technology and alternative textbooks, review of documentation to establish appreciated academic accommodations.

What advice do you have for student success?
Utilize ALL campus resources, ask questions!

What is your favorite thing about working with ODS?
The cohesiveness of the team and staff, reflection of Dr. Walkes.

What hobbies do you enjoy outside of the office?
Baseball, lunch, travel, science nerd

Dr. Harlan Ballard: Outreach, Assessment, Retention Coordinator

How long have you worked with ODS?
I have worked at Texas State and ODS since August 7 of this year, so it’s been just under two months. Prior to Texas State, I retired from the Army and worked in civil service.

What responsibilities do you have with your position in ODS?
I have several duties, but my main task is one of outreach. My primary responsibility is to educate and advocate. To educate the campus at large about the services that the Office of Disability Services by way of accommodations for students with disabilities and to be an advocate for students with disabilities.

What advice do you have for student success?
Get to know each one of your professors on a personal basis to make sure that they know that you are serious about your education and that you are committed to success but by the same token, remind the professors that they work for you and if they fail at providing you with the leveling type of education that you expect, they will be held accountable.

What is your favorite thing about working with ODS?
The thing I love most about working in ODS is the daily interaction with the students, the love and support I have from my peers and the guidance, autonomy and overall respect as a valued professional that I receive from supervisors placed over me.

What hobbies do you enjoy outside of the office?
I enjoy an occasional good cigar with a nice brandy, spending time with my family and fellowshipping with my church congregation, golfing, watching Texas State Bobcat, OU Sooner and Dallas Cowboys football, swimming, relaxing in a hot tub and riding my Harley Davidson motorcycle.
Congratulations to Amairany Villa for receiving the Champions of Success Award and Bruce Coonce for receiving the 25 Years of Service Award!

Pictured from left to right: Amairany Villa, ODS Staff, Bruce Coonce

LATINX AIDS Awareness Day
On October 16, 2018, ODS partnered with the Community Action Group in San Marcos to conduct free HIV testing for Texas State Students. Pictured right is a nurse speaking with a Texas State Student.

ODS Visits the University Camp Site
On November 6, 2018, the Texas State ODS staff paid a visit to the Texas State University Camp to learn about how to make the site more accessible. Pictured below is a photo from that site visit.

Healing Arts Event
At the beginning of the semester, ODS partnered with Healthy Cats to put on an event for students to relieve stress through the form of art. Pictured right is a student and her created art piece at the event. Pictured below are students relieving stress with their artwork.
Allies for Individuals with Disabilities Professional Development Workshop

Pictured to right: Dr. Walkes

First Generation College Celebration Event
On November 8, 2018, ODS set up a table with resources and information at the UAC Arc, alongside the Texas State University Student Support Services First Generation students. Pictured below are Kacie and Jessica speaking with students.

Hispanic Student Welcome Back Reception
In September of 2018, ODS attended a number of student welcome back receptions to provide information about the services provided here at Texas State. Pictured left are some ODS staff members at the event. Pictured right is Dr. Ballard and Kacie.

ODS Staff Retreat
On November 2, 2018, the Texas State ODS staff paid a visit to the Natural Bridge Caverns in San Antonio to learn about how to experience sensory differently. Pictured below is the ODS staff before entering the Natural Bridge Caverns.

Pictured left is Dr. Ballard and Liz showing bobcat pride. Pictured right are some ODS staff members at the event.

The Office of Disability Services would like to extend a very special recognition and thank you to Dr. Walkes for her outstanding dedication to the consistent growth and integration of our Office’s outreach on campus. A second, no lesser, thank you to our new Outreach and Assessment coordinator Dr. Ballard for coordinating a number of these events.
Effective Inclusionary Practices to Support Students at

Texas A&M University—San Antonio

Monday, November 12, 2018 | 2 p.m.—3 p.m.

This event was co-sponsored by the President's Commission on Equity and the University Library. It provided practical tips for faculty and staff to begin inclusionary practices in their departments and daily interactions with students.
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 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.

Editor’s Corner — Rami Banton

It has been a pleasure to serve as the editor for the ODS Newsletter this semester. The Office of Disability Services is a place of inclusion and standard for everyone. Being a part of the office has enabled me to be more open hearted and proactive in the support for students in need. This office creates a unique dynamic that I will cherish forever.

Rami Banton (rbb52@txstate.edu)
Useful Campus Resources

Academic Support Services

- **Academic Advising Offices**
  advising.txstate.edu
- **Student Support Services**
  http://www.sdi.txstate.edu/sss/
  512.245.2275
- **Student Learning and Assistance Center**
  Offers free tutoring to students
  txstate.edu/slac
  Alkek Library, 4th Floor  512.245.2515
- **The Writing Center**
  writingcenter.txstate.edu
  ASBN 100  512.245.3018
- **The Math Lab**
  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/
  Commons Hall, 2nd Floor
  512.245.7223
- **Collaborative Learning Center**
  STEM tutoring for students
  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/
  Alkek Library, 4th Floor  512.245.2515

Additional Support Services

- **Career Services**
  Free career preparation services
  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
  LBJ Student Center, 5th Floor (5-4.1)
  512.245.2208
- **Attorney for Students**
  Legal services for students
  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
  J.C. Kellam, 240  512.245.2315
- **iTAC**
  Information Technology Assistance
  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
  RMP Center for Student Retention
  512.245.5500