



HLC Accreditation 2020-2021

## **Evidence Document**

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Student Affairs

Office of Disability Services

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## **Disability Services Annual Report 2019**

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**Additional information:**

## Our Story

This is our current mission statement: Our mission is to enable the students of Wichita State University to achieve their educational goals, both personal and academic, to the fullest of their abilities by providing and coordinating accessibility services which afford individuals with learning, mental, or physical disabilities the equal opportunity to attain these goals. This is how our mission was carried out through fall 2018 and spring 2019.

This year has been a great year of service to students at WSU. We worked with Five-Hundred and Ninety-five students this year. This is an increase of 16 % from the previous academic year. These numbers represent a variety of disabilities, which include psychological, and learning disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and physical disabilities, both visible and not visible. We have Three-Hundred and Eight students that have been diagnosed with psychological disabilities (which is 52% of our student population), with Eighty-One of those dealing with anxiety-depression disorders. There has been a major increase in this area over the last five years. Eighteen students have the diagnoses of Autism Spectrum Disorder and we are seeing a continuous increase in this area. We have One-Hundred and Ninety students with a learning disability, and Thirty-Nine that have physical disabilities, immune system disorders, cardiopulmonary disorders, or neurological disorders. Out of all of these disabilities, forty students make up the most labor-intensive group for our office. Those students fall into the Deaf/hard-of-hearing category (Fifteen students in all), and the visually impaired (Twenty students), with five of those being completely blind.

Interpreting for our Deaf students played an important role in the services we provided this year. In the fall 2018 semester, we provided a total of One-Thousand-Seven Hundred and Fifty-Four hours of interpreting and in the spring, we provided a total of One-Thousand-Two-Hundred and Seventy hours. The vast majority of those hours completed in classrooms, but there were also study groups, meetings with instructors, student groups, special events, and graduations that all played a part in those hours. These hours provided for a total of six Deaf students and two Deaf instructors, and utilized ten interpreters. The majors represented by these students range from media arts and computer engineering to English literature, social work, and sociology.

Testing accommodations was one of the major services we provided to students this year. During the fall 2018 semester, we administered One-Thousand Seven-Hundred and Ten exams in our office. For the spring 2019 semester, we administered One-Thousand- Five Hundred and Sixty-Four exams. Testing accommodations included extended test time, private testing rooms, proctored exams, alternative formats (Braille), and visual technology aids. Over the last year, we have updated our testing rooms with new cameras for test security.

Another major accommodation our office provided throughout the 2018-2019 year was note takers. We provided this service for Sixty-Seven students in a total One-Hundred and Forty courses. This translated to hiring Eighty-five note takers compensated for sharing their notes. For the spring 2019 semester, Fifty-six students requested this accommodation for a total of One-hundred and Twenty-Five courses, and that required the hiring of Ninety note takers.

Another service our office provides is golf cart rides. Two-Thousand-Seven –Hundred and Thirty-Six rides were given to students, faculty, and guests, with the majority of the rides being provided during September, October, February, March, and April to students and faculty who deal with permanent disabilities.

One important thing to note is that Four-Hundred and Eighty students out of the Five-Hundred and Ninety- Five students mentioned previously were returning students. We believe this is an indication that students are receiving the academic accommodations needed to help them succeed. For the past two academic years, 20% of our student population has been new students.

All of this happened because we have a great office staff made up of the following people: Isabel Medina Keiser – Director, Kathy Stewart –Assistant Director, Jennifer Nicholson – Test Coordinator, Vicki Forbes – Administrative Assistant, Kelly Adams – Sign Language Interpreter, and Laura Rule – Sign Language Interpreter. Supported by a great group of student assistants/Student Workers and by numerous contract sign language interpreters from this area. We would not have been successful in providing services to all of these students without all of these talented people working together!

We start the spring 2019 semester with some changes. Isabel Medina Keiser is the new director and a new administrative assistant is Vicki Forbes, while the rest of the staff remains the same. ODS has implementing a new database system (Maxient) that allows us to gather better statistics and communicate more effectively with faculty and students. We continue to looking forward to new collaborations with faculty, staff, and students throughout the entire university in an effort to streamline the requests and provisions of accommodations for everyone involved. We are collaborating to establish Wichita State University as one of the most well known institutions that works to ensure everyone has an equal chance at a quality education.