This Handbook presents information relative to the University of Central Oklahoma’s Disability Support Services. Information is organized in a practical, easy-to-read manner. Responsibilities and policies are outlined and defined to assist not only the disability department, but both faculty and staff along with prospective and current UCO students with disabilities. Please understand that this Handbook only highlights policies, practices, and best practices for your personal understanding and cannot, therefore, be construed as a legal document. Disability Support Services reserves the right to modify this Handbook, amend or terminate any policies, procedures, or programs whether or not described in this Handbook at any time.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Accessibility Statements on Campus ................................................................. 3
Physical Access on Campus ............................................................................... 3
Conduct Standards .......................................................................................... 4
Emergency Procedures ....................................................................................... 5
Registering with DSS Considerations ............................................................. 5
Accommodation Information (permanent, temporary, & pregnancy) ................ 7
Academic Accommodation Examples ............................................................. 9
Housing Accommodations ................................................................................. 22
Pregnancy Related Accommodations .............................................................. 22
Testing Centers for Students with Disabilities at UCO ................................. 22
Assistive Technology ......................................................................................... 24
Independent Contractors (Sign Language Interpreters/CART Providers) ........ 26
Faculty Teaching Considerations ...................................................................... 27
Trainings Offered by DSS .................................................................................. 27
Foreign Language - American Sign Language .................................................. 28
Helpful Resources .............................................................................................. 28
Disclaimer .......................................................................................................... 29
Accessibility Statements on Campus

Campus Events Access Statement

All campus events opened to the public must be accessible to attendees with disabilities, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and equivalent state and federal laws. Public events are events that are open to community members who are not students or employees of the campus. Such events include, but are not limited to, theatre and music performances, athletic events and camps, gallery exhibits, seminars and colloquia, and graduation ceremonies. Materials announcing public events should state that the event is accessible, and that special accommodations may be made for people with disabilities. Announcements of public events should include a statement similar to this:

Wording for public events:

Persons who, because of a special need or condition, would like to request an accommodation should contact (insert event sponsor name and contact number) as soon as possible, but no later than 72 hours before the event, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

The sponsor of the event is responsible for receiving requests for access accommodations and for funding disability accommodations. Advice and assistance may be requested from the Disability Support Services Office at 405-974-2516, Office of Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action at 405-974-3377, Facilities Management at 405-974-2247, and/or Parking at 405-974-2780.

Syllabus Statement

The University of Central Oklahoma complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must make their requests by contacting Disability Support Services at (405) 974-2516. The DSS Office is located in the Nigh University Center, Room 305. Students should also notify the instructor of special accommodation needs as soon as possible. Per Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”), pregnant and parenting students may request adjustments by contacting the Title IX Coordinator, at (405) 974-3377 or TitleIX@uco.edu. The Title IX Office is located in the Nigh University Center, Room 136.

Physical Access on Campus

Over the past several years, UCO has made numerous modifications and improvements to enhance campus accessibility. Some examples of our campus accessibility features: designated handicap parking and conveniently located sidewalks and curb cuts provide accessible passageways throughout the campus; accessible restrooms, water fountains, and telephones are available in UCO buildings; and, ADA computer workstations are located in various computer labs across campus that house assistive
technology and specialized software for individuals with disabilities. DSS acts as a liaison in relaying needs/complaints/concerns regarding campus access to appropriate personnel as needed.

For individuals with disabilities wanting to apply to UCO, participating in a campus tour provides the best time and method of determining the degree of campus accessibility and need for requesting certain modifications. Register now for a campus tour.

All concerns for physical access may be directed to the respective building captain and/or DSS directly (i.e. elevators, ADA compliant door openers, special furniture, etc.). If faculty determine a course is in a location that is not accessible to a student or been notified by way of an accommodation letter from a student about a specific physical access need that has not yet occurred, DSS invites you to collaborate with the respective building captain and/or DSS directly as needed.

University employees inquiring about campus access for themselves should notify their immediate supervisor.

Conduct Standards

Although some individuals may be considered disabled and are protected under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, all are expected to meet the same standards of conduct. The University’s Code of Student Conduct which prohibits disruptive or other inappropriate behaviors are enforced despite one’s disability. Colleges and universities are not required to retain or readmit a student with a disability whose behavior poses a direct threat to the safety of others. “Direct threat” analysis must provide proof that the risks are real and not the product of stereotypical assumptions. Several administrative law decisions addressing this issue have held:

- If an individual’s disability cannot be accommodated in a way that assures a safe environment when participating in a program, the program provider is justified in excluding them from participation;
- If a student is suspended because of observed behaviors and opinion of psychiatric professionals that the student could not abide by the student code of conduct, he/she can seek re-enrollment with appropriate medical documentation regarding emotional stability;
- A college’s expulsion of a student was upheld when it was not based on perceived mental illness but rather on the student's actions of stalking and harassing a professor --the student posed a threat to the faculty and students; and
- A college suspension decision was not based on traumatic brain injury disability but that the student had threatened the professor after she told him he was ineligible to take the specific class as he had not taken a prerequisite course.

A fear of disruptive behavior may not be sufficient to deny readmission. For example, a college was found to have improperly denied readmission to a student after receiving medical documentation that the condition - bipolar disorder - had stabilized. However, a college may be able to set conditions for readmission.
All students regardless of disability are required to follow the Code of Student Conduct set forth by the University of Central Oklahoma, Student Affairs, Office of Student Conduct.

DSS is available to collaborate with students, faculty, and staff regarding any behavior/misconduct concerns in an attempt to correct any questionable behavior. DSS makes appropriate referrals to UCO’s Behavioral Assessment Team and the Office of Student Conduct as needed.

It is important for all university employees to establish standards for both classrooms and offices and enforce them for all, in conformance with the principles of academic freedom and freedom of speech.

University employees have the option to discuss a student’s behavior with the following campus professionals:

1. DSS Staff at (405) 974-2516
2. Center for Counseling and Well-Being at (405) 974-2215
3. If you believe that a student is engaging in misconduct or exhibiting behaviors that are disruptive to the university community please contact a Student Conduct Officer at (405) 974-5380.
4. If you believe that a student, faculty, or staff may be experiencing personal crisis or demonstrating behaviors that may be early warning signs of possible disruptive or violent behavior to appropriate campus resources, please contact the Behavioral Assessment Team.

Emergency Procedures
The time to become familiar with UCO’s emergency procedures is before an emergency occurs. For a more detailed list please review UCO’s “Emergency Preparedness Guide”.

Medical incident in a classroom/building
Familiarize yourself with the First Aid Overview in the UCO Emergency Preparedness Guide.

- Render immediately whatever aid you can
- Notify UCO Department of Public Safety at (405) 974-2345
- Call 911.

NOTE: If you are an individual with a disability that may have an occasional medical incident, it is your responsibility to talk to those in which you come into contact with frequently on the first aid you would prefer be administered to you. Understand that your preference may not be observed to at times.

Registering with DSS Considerations
Qualifications
Confidentiality
Registration
Qualifications
UCO is committed to serving all students with disabilities as defined by federal regulations. A qualified person with a disability is an individual who, with or without reasonable modifications to rules, policies or practices, the removal of architectural, communication, or transportation barriers, or the provision of auxiliary aids and services, meets the essential eligibility requirements for the receipt of services or the participation in programs or activities provided by a public entity.

The federal definition of a disability includes a person who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person’s major life activities; has a record of such impairment; or is regarded as having such impairment. DSS also provides accommodations for those with temporary injuries/conditions when one’s major life activities are substantially limited for educational purposes on a short-term basis.

Confidentiality
Student information related to disabilities is confidential and protected by law. At UCO, the DSS Office has been charged with collecting, storing, and controlling disability related information for registered students with disabilities. Disability related information may be shared with others on (1) a need-to-know basis where typically, disclosures are limited to the status of the student as “registered with a disability” and the accommodation(s) required for the student; or by completing a Confidentiality Agreement (a DSS internal form) that will allow the student the opportunity to identify friends, family, medical providers, DRS counselors, etc. for which DSS can speak with.

DSS student files are maintained for five (5) years from the date of last attendance or from the date of last contact, if such contact occurs after the last date of attendance. At the end of the five-year period, all records are destroyed.

It is the student’s right not to disclose specific information regarding his/her disability to university personnel. Although a difficult conversation to initiate, it is important for students to set a tone with instructors and staff regarding their status as a student with a disability and their desire to keep personal information confidential. The perfect time to do this is during the initial disclosure. For online courses and communicating with instructors, students can set the tone in their e-mails by focusing on their accommodations and not their disability diagnosis.

Disability related information disclosed to any faculty or staff should NOT be disclosed to any other individual without approval. The student’s disability information is covered by FERPA, the student right to privacy act.

Occasionally, administrators may have a need to collect statistical data such as the number of students served, the types of disabilities, and the specific accommodations that were provided to qualifying students. Administrators must, however, take precautions to protect the identities of students with disabilities when compiling these figures. This may include sanitizing student records by purging...
personally identifiable information from data sources that may circulate throughout the institutional community.

Registration
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and related legislation obligates public entities, including UCO, to provide individuals with disabilities access and opportunities equivalent to those granted to non-disabled persons. At UCO, DSS has been charged with the responsibility to determine reasonable accommodations. Accommodations are designed to achieve the institutional goal of providing legally required parity between students that are disabled and non-disabled in access opportunities to learning environments, technology, and experiences.

DSS meets with both prospective students and current students and initiates an interactive process with the student for determination of accommodations. For students who qualify for services, DSS produces an individualized accommodation letter and provides this letter to the student or appropriate personnel. DSS is available for consultation with students and/or faculty and staff regarding accommodations.

If a student’s disability encompasses barriers to their ability to perform specific educationally related tasks, reasonable accommodations may be provided to allow alternative methods of meeting requirements. The arrangement of reasonable accommodations is based on individual needs. UCO does not provide personal care attendants, individually prescribed devices, readers for personal use or study, or other devices or services of a personal nature (i.e. tutoring).

Per the law, it is the student’s responsibility to self-identify to DSS for determination of accommodations.

Register Today
To aid students in securing appropriate accommodations, the DSS office provides students with an Accommodation Letter, a written verification of registration of a disability and need for reasonable accommodations. The student is responsible for making sure that each professor receives a copy of the Accommodation Letter. Students must also identify themselves to their professor(s) for implementation of the recommended classroom accommodations. Upon receipt of an Accommodation Letter from a student, faculty or staff should discuss with the student how their specific accommodations will be made available. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive.

Accommodation Information (permanent, temporary, & pregnancy)
The Office of Disability Support Services is charged with determining reasonable accommodations to be made by the university based on the individual needs of a student with a disability, temporary injury/condition or physical access due to pregnancy. A student’s success shall be measured in a way that will reflect the student’s achievement rather than the impaired sensory, manual or speaking skills. Accommodations are intended to remove barriers which hinder learning and which allow maximum independence. Accommodations are not intended to give the student an unfair advantage over other students. Please note, however, that neither UCO nor an individual faculty member is required to waive
an essential or fundamental academic requirement of a course, regardless of the nature of the student’s disability. All academic activities associated with a class are the responsibility of the faculty member to whom the class is assigned. Consequently, decisions on what occurs in a class and the arrangement for the administration of accommodations for students with disabilities is also the responsibility of the faculty member in charge.

Students must self-identify and register with DSS each semester for accommodations. Accommodations are determined by individual need on a case-by-case basis, are not retroactive, and begin after an Accommodation Letter is presented to faculty and a reasonable time for accommodation implementation has been allowed. Faculty may use the example below (Classroom Accommodation Agreement), or one similar to this, but is not required in order for a student to begin receiving an accommodation(s) or the continuation of an accommodation(s). Any university personnel that is in disagreement with an accommodation(s) determined by DSS is required to provide the accommodation(s) until a resolution is agreed upon.

**Classroom Accommodation Agreement**

I understand that, as a student with a disability, enrolled at the University of Central Oklahoma, Disability Support Services has determined my accommodation need to either audio record, and/or receive copies of power points/handouts/overheads, and/or receive copies of professor’s notes, this semester, for use in my educational studies only. I realize these materials may not be shared with other people without the written consent of the instructor. I also understand they may not be used in any way against the instructor or students, especially when classroom comments are recorded as part of the class activity.

I will not release these materials, profit financially from these materials, or allow others to benefit from these materials. I agree to delete these materials in all formats after the completion of my degree/studies. I understand that some information shared in class may be of a sensitive nature and that I remain responsible for protecting the confidentiality of others. Public distribution of such materials may constitute copyright infringement in violation of federal or state law, or University policy. Violation of this agreement may subject a student to judicial review as a code of conduct violation.

I agree to abide by this agreement with regard to my accommodations while enrolled as a student at the University of Central Oklahoma.

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Academic Accommodation Examples

  Ability to take exams/quizzes within 48 business hours

  Ability to use a computer

  Ability to use a screen reader, screen magnifier, text-to-speech software, speech-to-text software

  Accessible Furniture

  Alternative Textbooks

  Auxiliary Aids

  Closed Captioning

  Extended Time on Exams

  Flexibility in Attendance

  Note-taker

  Priority Enrollment

  Reader and/or scribe

  Reduced Distraction

  Scantron filled out by proctor

  Sign Language/CART interpreter

  Use of a calculator

  Use of a spell checker

Ability to take exams/quizzes within 48 business hours of original exam date/time when the student’s absence is due to disability

Occasionally, a student’s disability will interfere with their ability to take an exam/quiz as scheduled. If this situation occurs, the student with this accommodation has an additional 48 business hours from the original scheduled time/date to take the exam. This two day extension is not automatic on every exam. The student must contact their professor and indicate they missed due to their disability and schedule a date/time to take the exam within the next 48 business hours either with the faculty or another department representative directly or by contacting DSS at (405) 974-2516. For any online quizzes/exams, contact the Training Resource Center or CeCE for instructions on how to adjust one’s available time. Students are encouraged to talk with their professors when they deliver their accommodation letter to determine a plan of action before the need arises.
Exam Accommodation Note: An instructor does not have the authority to request that a registered DSS student with exam accommodation(s) miss another class to complete the exam or specify the exam time. Academic Affairs expects the exam to be scheduled in a block that is as close to the time other students take the exam as possible, but that is also reasonable for the student.

Ability to use a computer for exams
A student with this accommodation would be able to use a computer to complete their exams, even paper/pencil exams. The student would type their answers (normally in word using a logical format that follows the outline of the exam). The answers should be printed or emailed directly to the faculty. Students should not be allowed to use any other computer functions (internet, calculator, etc.) unless all students are permitted to or identified as another one of their accommodations.

The faculty member may choose to administer an exam/quiz personally, allow a graduate assistant to administer the exam/quiz, or choose another viable option within their department to ensure a computer is available. In the event the faculty member has difficulty in finding an appropriate place or person to proctor an examination, please consider the Disability Support Services Testing Center as an option.

Exam Accommodation Note: An instructor does not have the authority to request that a registered DSS student with exam accommodation(s) miss another class to complete the exam or specify the exam time. Academic Affairs expects the exam to be scheduled in a block that is as close to the time other students take the exam as possible, but that is also reasonable for the student.

Ability to use a screen reader, screen magnifier, text-to-speech software, speech-to-text software
A student with this accommodation would be able to use a computer that houses assistive technology software (Jaws, NVDA, ZoomText, Wynn, Adobe ReadOut Loud, etc.) to complete their exams, even paper/pencil exams. For a student with this particular accommodation, faculty should verify that their exam/quiz will work with the specific assistive tech that is needed by the student. If using a publisher’s test bank, contact the vendor directly to check accessibility, but an actual “test run” will be needed to verify compatibility. Best practice is to verify the accessibility of an exam well before the scheduled date/time so modifications or corrections to formatting can be made in advance.

The faculty member may choose to administer an exam/quiz personally, allow a graduate assistant to administer the exam/quiz, or choose another viable option within their department to ensure a computer with the appropriate assistive technology is available. In the event the faculty member has difficulty in finding an appropriate place or person to proctor an examination, please consider the Disability Support Services Testing Center as an option.
Exam Accommodation Note: An instructor does not have the authority to request that a registered DSS student with exam accommodation(s) miss another class to complete the exam or specify the exam time. Academic Affairs expects the exam to be scheduled in a block that is as close to the time other students take the exam as possible, but that is also reasonable for the student.

Accessible Furniture
Any special arrangements (i.e. desk, chair, stool, etc.) for the classroom/event can be discussed with DSS and determined as an accommodation based on individual need. DSS collaborates with Building Captains, instructors, or event coordinators to ensure access.

Alternative Textbooks/Class Materials
Textbooks/class materials should be available in a variety of formats such as paper, PDF, audio and Braille. DSS can assist faculty, staff and students in locating and/or creating alternative formats. The process of locating/creating text in alternative format can be lengthy (a minimum of two weeks), so early identification of required/recommended materials is crucial.

Resources for Alternative Materials
- American Printing House for the Blind
- Barnes and Noble at UCO
- Bookshare
- Learning Ally
- Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

DSS Responsibilities
Provide assistance to students, faculty and staff in locating/creating materials in alternative formats.

Student Responsibilities
Students permitted this accommodation should search for textbooks/course materials in alternative format. Many publishers are now offering their materials in an electronic format. If unavailable, provide DSS a copy of the receipt for your purchased/rented textbook(s). If a personally owned book is used for conversion, a Bookbinding Removal Agreement is required (inquire about form in DSS). Electronic materials are delivered through a shared folder, unless otherwise noted. NOTE: This shared folder will be emptied at the end of every semester. Request for alternative text should be submitted at least six (6) weeks in advance of the needed date. DSS will make every attempt to meet requests submitted outside this timeframe, but cannot guarantee that the items will be completed by the date requested.
Faculty/Staff Responsibilities

Identify and post the required texts/materials for your courses as soon as possible. Student requests for alternative text should be submitted at least six (6) weeks in advance of the needed date. DSS will make every attempt to meet requests submitted outside this timeframe, but cannot guarantee that the items will be completed by the date requested. DSS strongly encourages that you select materials in an accessible format. If unavailable, DSS may require you provide a copy of the materials to be converted into an alternative format. If a department/personally owned book is used for conversion, a Bookbinding Removal Agreement is required (inquire about form in DSS) is required. If in-house conversion is necessary, DSS requires the instructor to provide a copy of the class syllabus or a statement of what chapters/sections will be covered and in what time frame. When producing materials, please follow the guidelines set forth in the Accessibility Checklist for Digital Media.

Auxiliary Aids

Technological advances in electronics have improved participation of students with disabilities in educational activities. Colleges are not required to provide the most sophisticated auxiliary aids available or one’s preference; however, the aids provided must effectively meet the needs of the student with a disability. To ensure effectiveness in providing the proper auxiliary aids, DSS, the student, and/or instructor or event coordinator will collaborate and explore options as needed prior to the selection of an assistive device.

Various types of auxiliary aids and services may include alternative formatted materials, note takers, interpreters/CART providers, magnifiers, electronic readers, captioning, assistive technology software, adaptive calculators/keyboards, assistive listening devices, telecommunication devices, etc.

Closed Captioning

UCO is required to develop, procure and maintain electronic and information technology that is accessible to individuals with disabilities. This legislative mandate occurred in 2004 with the passage of HB 2197, an Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility (EITA) Law that models Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, a federal law.

Specifically, Section 4.5 (c) of the Oklahoma EITA standards mandates, “All training and informational video and multimedia productions, excluding television broadcasts, live Webcasts and live video conferencing, which contain speech or other audio information necessary for the comprehension of the content, shall be open or closed captioned.”

DSS Responsibility

Notify university employees of their legal obligation as per Oklahoma’s Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Act and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 for required captioning for the intent or use of multimedia products for educational purposes.
As a courtesy, DSS notifies the instructor of record and the dean/chair of the department, when provided appropriate notification from the student, via a Pre-Letter for Accommodation. Captioned videos is a requirement per the federal and state laws regardless if you have a student with a disability in attendance.

**Student Responsibility**
Once accepted and enrolled for courses, request for captioning should be made immediately to DSS. Further responsibility is outlined in DSS’ internal form Utilizing Interpreters/CART & Captioning as an Accommodation Guidelines.

**Faculty/Staff Responsibility**
Determine whether the videos you plan to show are either closed captioned or have subtitles. This applies to all formats of videos (recorded from TV, DVDs, You Tube, TED Talks, etc.). An emblem like CC should be on the video. Be aware that if a program or video is captioned, a recorded copy may not retain the captioning. Seek funding from within your department for the cost of adapting these curricular materials. To be in accordance with EITA requirements, make sure new videos your department purchases or produces are captioned.

*If the video is captioned, then*

Check whether or not the TV/computer you plan to use has captioning capabilities. Contact your College Audio Visual Representative for technical assistance or use of captioning equipment.

*If the video is not captioned, then*

Check whether the video has a captioned version at the UCO or public library or online. If still unavailable consider contacting one of the following:

- For a traditional course, contact the Service Desk at support@uco.edu;
- For online courses, contact CeCE.
- Outsource:
  - Automatic Sync Technologies;
  - 20/20 Captioning & Steno CART;
  - 3Play Media

**Extended time on exams/quizzes**
Exam time shall be extended as per the student’s accommodation letter. This calculation only incorporates actual exam time, not a time frame to start and complete the exam. For example, if the professor lets the class have a week to do the exam (usually online or take-home), then this student will also have a week to complete the exam. For all online quizzes/exams, contact the Training Resource Center or CeCE for instructions on how to adjust one student’s time.

The faculty member may choose to administer an exam/quiz personally, allow a graduate assistant to administer the exam/quiz, or choose another viable option within their department to ensure extended time is available. In the event the faculty member has difficulty in finding an appropriate person to proctor an examination, please consider the Disability Support Services Testing Center as an option.
Exam Accommodation Note: An instructor does not have the authority to request that a registered DSS student with exam accommodation(s) miss another class to complete the exam or specify the exam time. Academic Affairs expects the exam to be scheduled in a block that is as close to the time other students take the exam as possible, but that is also reasonable for the student.

Flexibility in Attendance

DSS Responsibility

DSS staff will instruct students who qualify for flexibility in attendance of their rights and responsibilities which are outlined on our internal Flexibility in Attendance as an Accommodation Acknowledgement form. DSS is also available to collaborate with faculty when requested to determine if attendance is an essential element of their course.

UCO recognizes, however, that modifications to such a policy are required to prevent an unjust grading method when a qualified student with a disability cannot attend class because of disability-related reasons. Each semester, we have several students request that attendance/tardy policies be waived because their particular disability might require a significant number of absences beyond their control. As with all disability accommodations, exceptions to the attendance policy will be determined on an individual, case-by-case basis depending on:

1. The extent to which the supporting medical or psychological documentation from a licensed professional qualified to diagnose and treat the disability in question supports the need for an exception to an attendance policy; and
2. The rationale of this accommodation in each requested class as determined by discussions between the Disability Support Services Office and the course professor based upon the above criteria. In questionable cases, the academic department head and/or another appropriate academic administrator will be included in these discussions.

As the professor, DSS will ask the following questions propounded by the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights in considering and determining if a policy may legally be applied to a student with a disability who presents appropriate documentation.

1. Is there classroom interaction between the professor and the students, and among students?
2. Do student contributions constitute a significant component of the learning process?
3. Does the fundamental nature of the course rely upon student participation as an essential method for learning?
4. To what degree does a student’s failure to attend constitute a significant loss to the educational experience of other students in the class?
5. What does the course descriptions and syllabus say?
6. What is the method by which the final course grade is calculated?
7. What are classroom practices and policies regarding attendance?

8. What method have you the professor used to evaluate each question listed above in an objective manner?

**Student Responsibility**

Students are expected to follow the attendance policy established by the instructor in each class. UCO recognizes, however, that there may be times when a qualified student with a disability cannot attend class because of disability-related reasons.

If such a student believes it may not be possible to abide by the attendance policy because of medical issues related to a disability, the student should contact the Disability Support Services Office prior to the beginning of the semester, or as soon as possible when a need for an exception arises, to discuss the matter of a possible accommodation.

Students who are approved for an exception to the attendance policy based on disability are required to sign a Flexibility in Attendance as an Accommodation Acknowledgement (inquire about form in DSS) and provide their Accommodation Letter from Disability Support Services to each instructor confirming the accommodation. Accommodations are not retroactive. All accommodations, including an exception to the attendance policy, become effective when the student delivers the Accommodation Letter from Disability Support Services to the instructor.

**Faculty/Staff Responsibility**

The academic department identifies and defines the essential or fundamental academic requirements for its courses, and professors may establish grading policies in light of these requirements. The requirements for each course, sometimes including attendance, are usually stated on the course syllabus. In most cases, class attendance is critical to a student’s mastery of the knowledge and/or skills that are taught in a specific course. As such, many professors elect to base a portion of a student’s grade on attendance. More information may be found in the [Academic Affairs Faculty Handbook](#) regarding class attendance.

Specifically, section 3-1

“Individual policies must allow for a reasonable but not unlimited, number of excused absences, for legitimate reasons. Excused absences approved by faculty members should be consistently applied to all students. An excused absence means that an instructor may not penalize the student and must provide a reasonable and timely accommodation or opportunity to make up exams or other course requirements that have an impact on course grade. Excused students should be allowed the same opportunities as students who were present in class. Faculty members are obligated to honor the following circumstances as excused absences:

a. Travel considered part of the instructional program of the university and requiring absence from class (e.g. field trips, research presentations, etc.);

b. Invited participation in activities directly and officially sponsored by and in the interest of the university (e.g. athletic teams, debate teams, dance company, etc.); in cases of student athletes, refer to UCO Compliance Policy Manual for Athletics or contact the Faculty Athletic Representative;

c. Jury duty;
d. Military obligation

e. Serious illness, medical condition, pregnant and parenting students’ rights (as outlined in Title IX), accident, or injury; and

f. Death or serious illness in immediate family.

Note-Taker during Class Lectures

DSS Responsibility

DSS provides free note-taking paper to students with disabilities with this particular accommodation when needed. DSS is also available to assist instructors with requesting a classmate to become a note-taker if the instructors repeated request is denied.

Student Responsibility

When permitted this accommodation, there are a couple of options on how to receive this accommodation. You can either talk to your professor about assisting you in finding a note-taker or independently request and work with a peer in your class to obtain copies of their notes. It is important to communicate with your note-taker frequently about note-taking concerns, such as arrangements for receiving notes. If your instructor is assisting you and you wish for your identity to remain anonymous, then you will need to make arrangements with your instructor on a method for receiving your notes. If needed, you may pick up free note-taking paper in the DSS office for the note-taker to use. It is your responsibility to attend class in order to receive notes. If you miss a class, you may not be eligible to receive notes for that day from the regular note-taker unless the Professor agrees. If, at any time, you are not receiving notes after arrangements have been setup, speak with your Professor. If you still encounter issues/concerns, call DSS to discuss.

Faculty Responsibility

Some students may be unable to take effective notes due to their disability and note-taking assistance is warranted as an academic accommodation. If this accommodation is indicated on their Accommodation Letter provided by the student from DSS, assist the student as needed in recruiting a peer as a volunteer note-taker. DSS offers free note-taking paper to the student with a disability which they can provide to you (should they want to keep their accommodation(s) anonymous) or their note-taker. If the student does not offer you the paper, please ask the student to provide this directly to you. It is up to the student with a disability as to how their notes are obtained so as to maintain confidentiality. They may prefer to get the notes from you after class at a later time or just prefer the note-taker hand them their copy on the way out the door, etc. Utilizing a note-taker does not dismiss the student with a disability from taking their own notes when possible or attending class. Notes should be written legibly or typed. See below for the Note-taker’s Responsibility.

Please use the below statement when requesting a volunteer note-taker in your class:

“The University has requested a volunteer in this class to share their notes with a student that needs assistance. If anyone would like to volunteer, please contact me after class.”

REMINDER: Never identify the student with a disability to the class in any way. This breaches confidentiality and can be very embarrassing for the student.
Note-taker Responsibility

You have been asked to serve as a note-taker for a student with a disability in your class. Your regular attendance is an important factor in providing quality notes and continuity. Should you have to be absent, please advise your instructor and the student (if known) of your absence so a substitute can be arranged for the day. You may or may not know who the student is depending on the student’s preference. The fact that you are taking notes for a student in class may be shared with people, but information about that student may not. Note-takers are not required to be tutors or study partners for the student they are assisting. The student or instructor can provide you with note-taking paper or you can choose to type your notes and provide them electronically.

Why would another student need a copy of your notes? There are many reasons, but the nature of one’s disability makes it difficult for him/her to take comprehensive written notes in class. Sometimes a student will have difficulty in transferring words or thoughts to paper; sometimes the student has difficulty “decoding” what is heard (e.g. he/she may hear “Tuesday” and think it was “two days”); some students may have difficulty dealing with new vocabulary. Or it may be that their disability prevents them from keeping up with the class lecture and note taking or from concentrating fully to take accurate notes. For whatever reason, this accommodation provides them with equal access to the course materials. Your notes will be a valuable study aid for the student with a disability.

Tips in making your notes useful:

1. Label each set of notes with the lecture title and date, and number the pages.
2. Listen intently from the beginning of the lecture; the instructor may outline the lecture in the first few minutes and often will make sure the important details that have not been explained are covered in the last 5-10 minutes.
3. Write as many meaningful facts and details as you can.
4. Note everything the instructor puts on the board.
5. Record all technical facts, names, dates, equations, diagrams and examples.
6. Note clues the instructor gives indicating that something is important, such as the repetition of a definition or point of information, change of voice, body language, verbal cues, etc.
7. Circle or star (*) assignments and announcements, such as test dates.
8. Read the text before class to improve your understanding of the lecture.
9. Recommended note-taking styles.
10. Make the notes easier to read and more effective as a study aid by:
    - Using one side of the paper only;
    - Using dark ball point pen;
    - Writing legibly;
    - Leaving blanks when you are unsure (get clarification from the instructor after class);
    - Using correct spelling (if unsure of a word, write “sp?” above it and correct it later);
    - Using white space effectively (separate main ideas/topics with a line or two);
• Marking points of emphasis (change the print, circle, underline, use stars, etc.);
• Underlining definitions and including them verbatim; and
• Using abbreviations carefully (make a list at the beginning or end of the notes as to any unusual abbreviations you used and what they represent).

You may find that the student has asked for notes from one or more others in the class as well. This allows the student to synthesize several sets of notes to make sure he/she is getting all the information in the most organized fashion. If you and the others whose notes are being used have followed the guidelines including here, the combining of your notes will impose a structure on the information presented that the student with a disability might not be able to develop independently.

With your volunteer service as a note-taker, the student can concentrate on the content of the information presented in class instead of on the mechanics for getting it down on paper. This shifts the emphasis back to what is to be learned instead of how to learn it, and may make all the difference for that student when it comes to tests, understanding of the course material, and overall performance. DSS thanks you for your volunteer service and encourages you to add serving as a note-taker for an individual with a disability on your resume.

Priority Enrollment

Students with a documented, permanent disability-based or medical-related need may be permitted priority enrollment as an accommodation approved by Disability Support Services. The status of being allowed priority enrollment is on a case-by-case basis and will be determined during an interactive-process between the student and the DSS provider. New or transfer students to UCO are not permitted priority enrollment their first semester at UCO. For current students, determination of eligibility must occur four weeks before priority enrollment opens. Once determined reasonable, the continuation of priority enrollment during one’s academia is based on their registration with Disability Support Services each semester, current semester enrollment status, and functional limitations. It is the students’ responsibility to alert DSS of their need for priority enrollment. Please note, that not all students with disabilities registered with DSS are extended priority enrollment as an accommodation. This particular accommodation ensures that students with disabilities will have adequate time to get to and from class, the classroom is accessible, and that auxiliary aids and services (i.e. interpreters, closed captioning, alternative textbooks, etc.) can be arranged as examples.
Reader and/or Scribe for Exams

A student with this accommodation may need another individual to serve as their live reader and/or scribe during exams. It is recommended that the individual serving as the reader/scribe is not enrolled in the same class as the exam that is to be given or has plans to enroll in the same class the following semester.

The faculty member may choose to administer an exam/quiz personally, allow a graduate assistant to administer the exam/quiz, or choose another viable option within their department to ensure a reader and/or scribe is available. In the event the faculty member has difficulty in finding an appropriate place or person to proctor an examination, please consider the Disability Support Services Testing Center as an option.

Guidelines for Readers:
- Briefly discuss the testing process before beginning.
- Read everything exactly as it is written on the exam. No more. No less. No exceptions.
- Speak in a clear voice throughout the test.
- Facial expressions and voice tone should remain neutral.
- If you encounter a word unfamiliar to you, spell the word to the student. If the student pronounces the word, then re-read the statement pronouncing the word as the student indicated.
- Spell a word to clarify the meaning, such as “to”, “two”, and “too”.
- Give special emphasis to words printed in boldface, italics, or capitals and tell the test taker they are printed that way.
- When reading the answers be sure to read the A, B, C, D.
- If the student chooses an answer before all choices are read, ask if he/she wants to hear the other response options.
- Reread any part of the exam at any time the student requests.
- Mathematical expressions must be read precisely and with care to avoid misrepresentation.
- Use technically correct yet simple terms, and be consistent.

Guidelines for Scribes:
- Briefly discuss the testing process before beginning.
- Write everything exactly as it is said by the student. No more. No less. No exceptions.
- Write down an outline, notes, or other things as directed by the student.
- You should ask for the spelling of unknown words, commonly misspelled words and homonyms, such as “to”, “two”, and “too”.
- Mathematical expressions must be written precisely and with care to avoid misrepresentation.
- If the student is not going to answer a question, write “no answer given” to that question.
- Have the student check for accuracy, if possible.
- Make any changes the student deems necessary.

Exam Accommodation Note: An instructor does not have the authority to request that a registered DSS student with exam accommodation(s) miss another class to complete the exam or specify the exam time. Academic Affairs expects the exam to be scheduled in a block that is as close to the time other students take the exam as possible, but that is also reasonable for the student.
Reduced distraction environment for testing

A reduced distraction environment is an area the student can test with minimal distractions. The environment should be well-lit, no flickering lights, adequately ventilated, quiet, extremely low traffic area, small group, and shielded from outside noises such as telephone calls, street traffic, maintenance activities, people walking through or knocking on doors, etc. Examples of inappropriate testing environments include a lounge area, an open or freely accessible office area, a classroom located next door to or across the hall from a busy office, or ground floor offices or classrooms near a busy parking lot.

The faculty member may choose to administer an exam/quiz personally, allow a graduate assistant to administer the exam/quiz, or choose another viable option within their department to ensure a reduced distraction environment. In the event the faculty member has difficulty in finding an appropriate place or person to proctor an examination, please consider the Disability Support Services Testing Center as an option.

Exam Accommodation Note: An instructor does not have the authority to request that a registered DSS student with exam accommodation(s) miss another class to complete the exam or specify the exam time. Academic Affairs expects the exam to be scheduled in a block that is as close to the time other students take the exam as possible, but that is also reasonable for the student.

Scantron may be filled out by a proctor

A student with this accommodation may need another individual to fill in their answers on the scantron. The student will answer all exam questions on the paper exam. The proctor will then fill out the scantron.

The faculty member may choose to administer an exam/quiz personally, allow a graduate assistant to administer the exam/quiz, or choose another viable option within their department to ensure this accommodation is available. In the event the faculty member has difficulty in finding an appropriate place or person to proctor an examination, please consider the Disability Support Services Testing Center as an option.

Sign Language/CART interpreters

DSS Responsibility

Upon request and need from a student for academic purposes, DSS will coordinate and as needed arrange for payment of services. Currently, DSS utilizes independent contractors to fulfill the university’s responsibility of ensuring equal communication access for those individuals that are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Independent Contractors abide by the University’s Service Agreement and DSS’ Service Contract.
Additionally, DSS is available for consult to Faculty/Staff who host an event where an interpreter has been requested.

**Student Responsibility**
Abide by DSS' internal form: Utilizing Interpreters/CART & Captioning as an Accommodation Guidelines.

**Faculty/Staff Responsibility**
Please note, some students maybe utilizing this service remotely; meaning, an interpreter is listening to the class session via the internet and simultaneously producing live communication to the student by way of an electronic device. In this instance, the instructor may need to wear a microphone for direct feed to the interpreter.

Below are some suggested guidelines when working with interpreters/CART providers.

- Interact with the student who is deaf or hard-of-hearing as you would with any other student. It may be necessary to adapt some teaching methods, but maintain the same academic standards.
- Provide the interpreter with copies of handouts, overheads, lecture notes, and other related materials used in class.
- Allow the interpreter and student to position themselves appropriately in the classroom.
- Speak directly to the student, for example, instead of saying to the interpreter “tell her” or “ask him,” address the student personally.
- Discuss accommodation needs and course progress with the student and not the interpreter, who should serve as a conduit for those interactions and should not be asked to interject personal thoughts or opinions. The interpreter should not change the dynamics of the professor/student relationship.
- Speak clearly and in a normal tone. The interpreter or the student may ask the speaker to slow down, pause more frequently, or repeat a word or sentence for clarification.
- Ask students to speak in turn, with only one person talking at a time.
- Allow opportunities for all students to interject questions and comments as interpreting requires processing time and can make it difficult for the student to participate immediately.
- Notify DSS at least 48 hours in advance of a cancelled class session or changes in a regularly scheduled assignment. Interpreters are an expense. A 48 hour notice allows DSS to cancel the interpreter at no cost to the university in most instances.
Housing Accommodations

Housing accommodations can be a variety of things based on one’s individualized needs. These can range from an ADA accessible room, private bedroom, private bathroom, semi-private bathroom, first floor, ability to have a service/emotional support animal, etc. Remember, housing is first-come, first-serve, so early identification to DSS is crucial. Request Accommodations Today!

Pregnancy Related Accommodations

Should you need accommodations temporarily due to pregnancy, fill out the Student Temporary Accommodation Application. You will be required to upload documentation from your OB/GYN that includes your due date and any current limitations/restrictions. DSS collaborates, as needed, with the University’s Title IX Coordinator when extenuating circumstances exist.

Testing Centers for Students with Disabilities at UCO

1. Disability Support Services Testing Center, NUC 305, (405) 974-2516
   a. Traditional academic quizzes/exams for students with disabilities and accommodations when the instructor is unable to meet the student’s accommodation(s) in the classroom.

2. Testing Services, THH 319, (405) 974-2388
   a. Placement Testing, Residual ACT, Specialized Exams

3. College of Business Testing Center, BUS 111, (405) 974-2695
   a. Online Business Courses

4. eLearning Testing Center, THH 310, (405) 974-2347
   a. Online Course Exams

Testing Center in Disability Support Services NUC 305

For a student to schedule an exam with DSS, the below factors must exist:

- Students are required to take the exam on campus in which the instructor is proctoring;
- Students are required to take the exam at the same time/date/location;
- Student has a current DSS accommodation letter outlining exam accommodations; and,
- The instructor is unable to provide the accommodation(s) in their respective area.

The DSS Testing Center is open Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm. However, exam appointments are available starting at 9:00 a.m. (10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays) on the hour and must be finished by 4:45pm. The testing center is closed on the weekends and any day the university campus is closed.

Questions/concerns regarding the DSS Testing Center: contact the Assistive Technology & Testing Coordinator at (405) 974-2525.
DSS Responsibilities

DSS will proctor all exams that meet the four outlined factors above, by surveillance cameras, in person and/or computer monitoring software. DSS notifies instructors via email of a student’s scheduled date/time. DSS will provide all requested and approved accommodations and any allowances by the instructor that all students have access to and are notated on the Exam Administration Form. DSS keeps exams confidential and secure at all times while in our possession and returns exams within 48 hours of completion when hand-delivered has been requested by the instructor.

Student Responsibilities

It is the professor and student’s responsibility to discuss a plan of action for the student receiving exam accommodations in advance. If, the DSS Testing Center is to be used for implementation of one’s accommodations, the student is required to schedule each exam at least 2 business days in advance. For example:

If today is Monday, the next available exam day is Thursday.
If today is Tuesday, the next available exam day is Friday.
If today is Wednesday, the next available exam day is Monday.
If today is Thursday, the next available exam day is Tuesday.
If today is Friday, the next available exam day is Wednesday.

Note the exceptions to the 2 business day notice rule below.

Schedule one exam per submission. If you add several exams to your CART and checkout, the system will not recognize them and may be lost in transaction. Remember to request all approved accommodations that you will need on the individual exam. Allow yourself enough time to complete the exam as taking an exam is not an excuse for missing or being late to another class. Once scheduled, verify all information on the confirmation email is correct or make changes as needed.

On test day: Student ID is required. Bring any materials required and/or allowed as needed for your exam. For regular exams, all personal items must be left at home or stored in a locker. DSS staff are not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged personal items. Backpacks, purses or other items must NOT be left unattended in the DSS offices. During Finals Week, lockers are not available and students are encouraged to only bring what is allowed in the testing room with them. It is the student’s responsibility to notify DSS if the testing environment is unacceptable. Student is responsible for following all exam instructions. Any misconduct within DSS will be reported to the instructor of record and/or student conduct.

Tardy/Late Rule: All students must be seated in the testing room before 15 minutes after the hour. Starting late also means forfeiting a portion of one’s allotted exam time. Starting 15 minutes after the hour or later options:

• reschedule the exam for another date/time as agreed upon by my professor; or,
• wait for the next seating time, if one is open and is approved by my professor.
Final Exams: are to be scheduled as close to the regular class date/time as possible. During Finals, DSS starts exams at 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 1:00 p.m. only. Same Tardy/Late Rule (see above) applies.

Any questions, contact DSS at (405) 974-2525.

**Faculty/Staff Responsibilities**

Students are required to schedule regular exams online two business days in advance (Note the exceptions to the 2 business day notice rule.) As a result of the student scheduling an exam for your class, you will receive an email regarding their scheduled quiz/exam. Verify all information. Contact the student and/or DSS to make changes as needed. DSS asks that you deliver the quiz/exam to the DSS office (NUC 305) at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled exam time. In addition to delivering the quiz/exam, please include an Exam Administration Form for each student/exam. If items are not specified on this form, DSS will use their own discretion. Exams and the Exam Administration Form may be delivered via email to dsslab@uco.edu or hand-deliver to NUC, room 305.

Understandably, an instructor does not have the authority to request that a registered DSS student with exam accommodation(s) miss another class to complete the exam or specify the exam time. Academic Affairs expects the exam to be scheduled in a block that is as close to the time other students take the exam as possible, but that is also reasonable for the student and Disability Support Services Testing Center. When a student cannot take the exam at the same time as the class because of their disability or class schedule conflicts, this does not constitute a make-up exam.

**Exceptions to the two business day rule:**
1. Fall and Spring Finals: all finals must be scheduled by noon the Monday before Finals Week begins.
2. Intersession and Summer Finals: require a 12 hour notice.
3. Students with the accommodation "Take exam within 48 hours of date/time of exam": Call 405-974-2525 and indicate you missed an exam due to your disability and need to schedule a time within the next 48 hours as per your accommodation.
4. Pop quizzes: The instructor must contact the DSS Testing Center by phone (405-974-2525), stating the time/date of the pop quiz and deliver a copy to the DSS Testing Center. Student(s) are notified by the instructor at the appropriate time.
5. Walk-ins are allowed if DSS has the exam and a seat available. Remember, that accommodations may not be available without advance notice.

**Assistive Technology**
- **Equipment**
- **Software/Hardware**
**Equipment**

Disability Support Services has various assistive technology equipment available for loan free of charge to students on a semester basis. This includes hearing devices, visual aid devices, and specialized equipment for specific services. DSS maintains the equipment, loans to registered DSS students and is available to train students on use and care as needed. For students to use the equipment, they must be registered with DSS. Equipment may be picked up and returned in the DSS, NUC, room 305.

Wheelchairs are available for loan free of charge to the university community, regardless of registration with DSS. Equipment may be picked up and returned in the DSS, NUC, room 305.

For questions or issues regarding Assistive Technology Equipment, please contact DSS at (405) 974-2516 or dsslab@uco.edu.

**Software/Hardware**

Disability Support Services maintains the following ADA Workstations across campus:

- Business Building, Room 109
- Education Building, Room 110
- Howell Hall, Room 319
- Liberal Arts Building, 2nd floor (southeast corner)
- Math/Science Building, 1st floor computer lab
- Max Chambers Library 1st floor
- Nigh University Center, Digital Den, room 152
- Nigh University Center, DSS Lab, room 305

Assistive technology available at ADA Workstations:

- Dragon Naturally Speaking: accurate, easy-to-use, powerful speech recognition software. In addition to assisting users to operate a computer hands-free, it turns your voice into text allowing the user to dictate continuously and naturally up to 160 words per minute;
- Zoom Text Magnifier/Reader: fully integrated magnification and screen reading program that enlarges, enhances and reads aloud everything on the computer screen;
- WYNN Wizard: scanning and reading software. It includes optical character recognition (OCR), the ability to scan printed pages and convert them into electronic text. Speech synthesis enables this scanned text to be read aloud. Additionally, WYNN Wizard can read word processing documents, Adobe Acrobat PDF files, text files, and the Internet;
- JAWS: screen reader that provides access to software applications and the internet;
- NVDA: free screen reader that provides access to software applications and the internet;
- Adobe ReadOutloud: free text-to-speech software (part of Adobe Acrobat Reader) that reads PDF documents;
- ClaroReader: scanning and reading software. It includes optical character recognition (OCR), the ability to scan printed pages and convert them into electronic text. Speech synthesis enables this scanned text to be read aloud (located only in DSS, NUC 305);
• Trackball: reduces hand movement and strain and allows for comfortable and precise navigation with a slow, small movement of the hand (not available at all ADA workstations);
• Adjustable table: height of the table can be adjusted electronically (not available at all ADA workstations);
• Ergonomic Keyboard (located only in DSS, NUC 305);
• Keyboard Stickers in large print, yellow, white, or braille that provide a visual enhancement for identification of keys (available as needed); and,
• Braille Printer: capable of printing documents in Braille (located only in DSS, NUC 305).

Need help getting started? . An AT Quick Start Guide can be found attached to each ADA workstation. There is also an Assistive Technology Software Operating Procedure on every ADA computer hard drive. For questions or issues regarding assistive technology software/hardware available on ADA Workstations or training in the use of such technology, please contact DSS at (405) 974-2516 or dsslab@uco.edu.

Independent Contractors (Sign Language Interpreters/CART Providers)

Independent Contractors wanting to serve as sign language or CART provider are required to have on file with the University’s Disability Support Services the below documents before providing services. These documents are in effect from July 1st to June 30th. Each fiscal year, new contracts are required. Contracts can be submitted throughout the fiscal year at any point for consideration of providing sign language or CART services. Before completing the required documents, please review the University’s Independent Contractor Hiring and Processing Procedures.

Required Documents:

1. UCO Services Agreement
2. ASL/CART Interpreter Service Contract
3. W-9 Form with copies of two forms of identification (NOTE: If you were an IC the previous year, a new W-9 is not needed unless your information has changed)
4. Copies of current sign language/CART certifications

For Your Information Documents:

1. Utilizing Interpreters/CART & Captioning as an Accommodation Guidelines – this document outlines the student’s responsibility given the accommodation of a sign language/CART interpreter or closed captioning. This is a departmental internal form, but if you would like a copy, please submit a request by emailing DSSinterpreter@uco.edu.
2. UCO Policy on Service Animals
3. Accessibility Checklist for Digital Media – this document outlines the university’s responsibility for closed captioning (#4).

If you have any questions regarding interpreting for individuals that are Deaf or Hard of Hearing at UCO, please contact the DSS Coordinator at (405) 974-2516 or by email at DSSinterpreter@uco.edu.
completion of the above documents, all original documents with signatures should be submitted to Disability Support Services, 100 N. University Drive, Box 144, Edmond, OK 73034.

Faculty Teaching Considerations

Behavior/Conduct of Students with Disabilities
Confidentiality of Students with Disabilities
Emergency Procedures

Universal Design

The Center for Universal Design (CUD) at North Carolina State University states universal design "is the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design". DSS supports and promotes the use of universal design principles for all products and environments on campus. Read more at Universal Design: Process, Principles, and Applications.

Creating Accessible Documents

- Accessibility Checklist for Digital Media
- Accessibility Tutorial for Microsoft Word
- Cheatsheets from the National Center on Disability and Access to Education
- Create Accessible Products (Documents) from the GSA

Trainings Offered by DSS

DSS representatives can come to any class and provide hands-on disability awareness training. To inquire, please email the Director at DSSdirector@uco.edu.

DSS provides the below one-on-one training opportunities for registered students:

- Time Management Skills
- Notetaking Methods
- Tips in Exam Taking
- Text-to-speech software
  - Adobe
    - Read OutLoud Tips
  - Wynn Wizard
    - Wynn Tip Sheet
- Screen magnifier
  - ZoomText
    - ZoomText Tutorial
  - Windows Eyes
    - Windows Eyes Tutorial
• Speech-to-text software
  o Dragon Naturally Speaking
    ▪ Dragon Tutorial
• Screen reader
  o Jaws
    ▪ JAWS Tutorial
  o NVDA
    ▪ NVDA Guide Book

All trainings are held in the DSS office located in the Nigh University Center, room 305. Call the office at 405-974-2516 or stop by to schedule an individual time that works best for you.

Foreign Language - American Sign Language

Oklahoma State Law

§70-3208.1 Oklahoma Attorney General’s Office: It is the intent of the Legislature that American Sign Language be recognized as a foreign language. Any institution in the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education may, in accordance with Section 3208 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statues, offer courses in American Sign Language and grant credit for such courses in the same manner as provided for other foreign language courses. Course credit earned by a student for American Sign Language classes taken in the public schools may be credited by an institution for purposes of meeting elective course entrance or graduation requirements or both entrance and graduation requirements.

Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation (OCTP), 16 December 1998 “Foreign Language Fact Sheet”: The foreign language competency encompasses a broad spectrum of languages including French, German, Spanish, Russian, Latin, Native American languages, and American Sign Language. Students from a variety of cultural backgrounds may meet this competency without any coursework. Others may achieve a novice-high level before entering college through previous exposure to a language or culture.

Helpful Resources

a. ABLE Tech – Oklahoma’s Assistive Technology Act Program
b. Adaptive and Inclusive Recreation at UCO
c. Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD)
d. Campus Maps
e. D2L Quiz Exam – Add Restrictions
f. Diagnostic Testing for determination of a disability
  1. UCO Learning and Behavior Clinic, 974-2758 or 974-5707.
  2. Psychology Specialists of Oklahoma, 405-242-6460
  3. Psychological Services Center at OU, 405-325-2914
  4. Psychological Services Center at OSU, 405-744-5975
5. **Vocational Rehabilitation**, if Oklahoma resident, 1-800-845-8476
6. **Moore Counseling Center**

- **g. Learning Disabilities Association of America**
- **h. National Alliance on Mental Illness**
- **i. National Center for Education Statistics**
- **j. National Center for Learning Disabilities**
- **k. National Deaf Center**
- **l. National Federation of the Blind**
- **m. NewView Oklahoma**
- **n. Oklahoma’s Association on Higher Education and Disability (OK-AHEAD)**
- **o. Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services**
- **p. Oklahoma Epilepsy Foundation**
- **q. Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped**
- **r. Safety and Transportation Services at UCO**
  - Alternative Transportation
  - Physical Disability Parking and Medical Permits
  - Safe Walk
- **s. Speech and Hearing Clinic at UCO**
- **t. Scholarships at UCO**

**Disclaimer**

This Handbook has been prepared for general information purposes only. No statement appearing in this Handbook constitutes a contractual obligation by the Board of Regents or the University of Central Oklahoma. If any official policy statements of the Board of Regents or of the University are in contradiction to statements appearing in this Handbook, such official policy statements will be deemed to have control over the statements appearing in this document. The Board of Regents and the University reserve the right to alter the terms of official policy statements and/or this Handbook at any time, without advance notice.