Joint Council on Academic and Student Affairs Meeting: 2017: 11: 13: Student Disability Services Presentation

University of South Florida St. Petersburg, Office of the Regional Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

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**LEGAL CONTEXT**

**1973 REHABILITATION ACT SECTION 504**
- First federal civil rights legislation protecting rights of individuals with disabilities
- All programs receiving federal financial assistance (including federal financial aid)

**1990 AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**
- Also applies to the private sector
- Covers employment

**2008 ADA AMENDMENTS ACT**
- Liberalizes the standard of disability
- Determining whether an impairment is a disability should not demand extensive analysis
# HOW IS DISABILITY FRAMED?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frame</th>
<th>Core</th>
<th>In Practice</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual (Medical)</td>
<td>• Locate the problem within individual • Focus on specific conditions/diagnosis • Do not internalize disability as an identity</td>
<td>• Cure or fix problem • Disability is negative • Individual accommodations</td>
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<td>Sociopolitical</td>
<td>• Locate problem in environment • Barriers those with disabilities and set parameters of disability experience</td>
<td>• Work to identify and eliminate barriers • Disability is neutral • Appreciation for community and culture • Create sustainable change</td>
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“Person with disability” means an individual who: has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; has a record of such an impairment; or is regarded as having such an impairment.”
<table>
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<tr>
<th>IDEA</th>
<th>ADA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Statute</strong></td>
<td>Ensures free and appropriate public education for children with disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Coverage</strong></td>
<td>Children in the K-12 system whose education is negatively impacted by the disability. There are specific disabilities covered, so not all students with disabilities will be protected</td>
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<td><strong>Initiating Services</strong></td>
<td>Parents and teachers identify students needing assistance through consent for evaluation and Child Find</td>
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<td><strong>Documentation</strong></td>
<td>School districts are responsible for providing the means for a student to be evaluated</td>
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<td><strong>Education Plans</strong></td>
<td>Individual Education Plans (IEP's) are developed and tracked through the student's educational process</td>
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<td><strong>Enforcement of Laws</strong></td>
<td>A funding statute, enforced by the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services in the US Department of Education</td>
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USFSP SDS STATISTICS FALL, 2017

- Number of Registered Students - Approx. 205

- Types of Disabilities:
  - Learning Disability - 51
  - ADD - 43
  - Combination - 16
  - Psychiatric - 38
  - Mobility - 15
  - Visual - 8
  - Hearing - 4
  - Medical - 30

- Number of Proctored Exams (2016-2017) - 860
- Caseload for Academic Coaches (9/17 – 11/17) - 16 students
- Average GPA for SDS students, Spring, 2017 - 3.19
WRAPPING IT UP

- Disability is not an individual problem that needs to be fixed or cured...Disability is a natural part of life and should be a valued identity group.

- The similarities of students with disabilities and students without disabilities are more significant than their differences.

- A disability is what a person has, not what they are. It is just another aspect of diversity.

- Beware of stereotyping...dependency and helplessness are NOT characteristics of PWD. PRESUME COMPETENCE! Treat with dignity. They are not victims!

- The primary manifestation of discrimination against people with differences—a disability or otherwise—is exclusion.
STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES

FACULTY RESOURCE GUIDE

• Includes:
  • Testing Guidelines for Students and Instructors
  • SDS Forms
  • Frequently Asked Questions such as:
    • “What should a faculty member do if they suspect a student has a disability?”
  • Etiquette for Working with Students with Disabilities
  • Other Resources

• For a copy of this Guide, please contact Barry McDowell at mcdowell@usfsp.edu.