



AccessAbility Services Orientation Fall 2021



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Elisabeth Morel
Director
AccessAbility Services

Presentation Overview

- Transitioning to College with a Disability
- WCSU Supports
- University Specific Policies/Dates

First Day of School

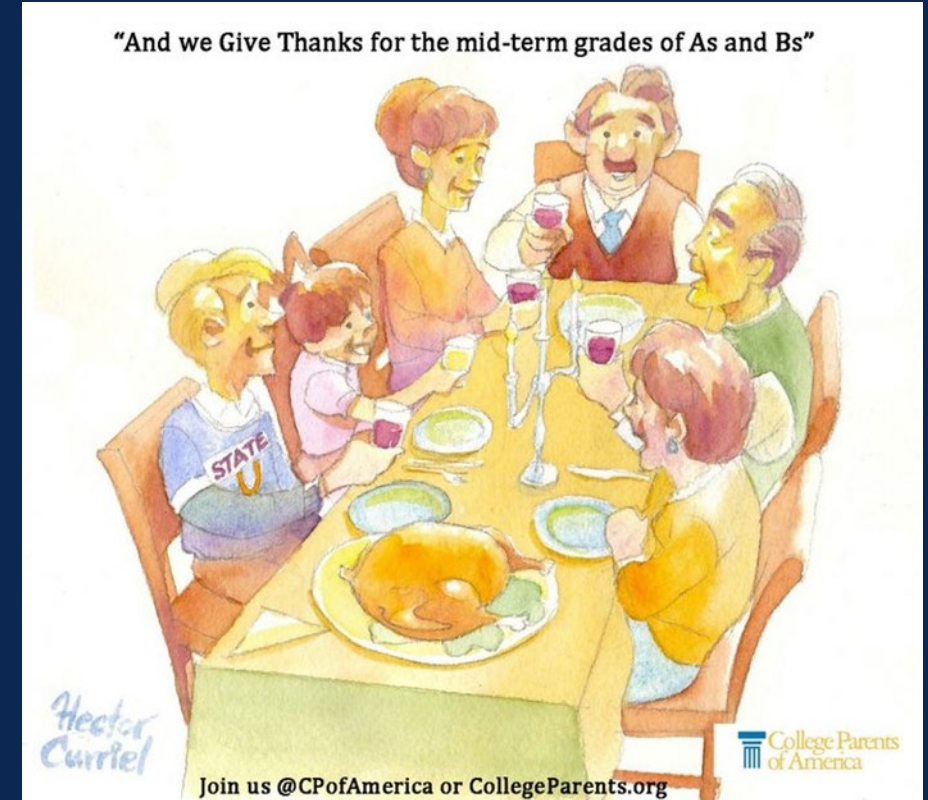


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College Days



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AccessAbility Services Overview

- Comprised of full-time director and four part-time learning specialists.
- Work with approximately 400 students with disabilities.
- Any student with a documented temporary or permanent disability may be eligible to receive accommodations and/or support services.
- Disabilities include learning disabilities, concussions, ADHD, autism spectrum disorders, physical, chronic health, visual and hearing impairments, and/or other psychiatric disabilities (anxiety, depression, OCD, bipolar).
- Accommodations and services can include testing accommodations, classroom accommodations, academic coaching and referrals to other campus and community resources.



Differences Between High School and College

High School	College
School and parents coordinate and provide accommodations	The student must initiate and coordinate services to request accommodations
Entitlement system	Eligibility system
Modifications to curricula	No modifications allowed
<i>Special</i> accommodations	<i>Reasonable</i> accommodations

Differences Between High School and College Cont.

High School	College
Teachers told of disability	Student may disclose
Weekly, periodic tests Structured daily work	Cumulative exams Long-term projects
Annual IEP	Semester by semester accommodations
Communication with parents necessary	Communication with parents not required

Accommodations

Testing Accommodations:

- Extra time on timed quizzes/exams, reduced distraction, no scantrons, proctored breaks, access to computer to type responses, calculator

Academic Accommodations:

- Notetaking, Voice Recorder/SmartPen, alternate format books, computer in class, preferential seating, large print, FM systems
- Early Registration, course substitutions

Housing Accommodations

- Single room, etc.

Supports for All Students

- Tutoring Resource Center in Library
 - Open to all students, free of charge, content tutoring for all courses
- The Writing Center in Library
 - Writing workshops, help at all stages of the writing process, free of charge
- Ancell Learning Commons
 - Tutoring in business courses, open to anyone enrolled in a business course, free of charge
- Math Clinic
 - Tutoring in math courses, exam prep for math, drop in only, no appts.
- Academic Advisement
 - Undeclared majors- help select courses, declare a major, explore career options

AAS Support Services

ACES– Academic Coaching & Educational Support

- Weekly academic instruction focused on strategies to improve information processing, concentration, motivation, test taking, time management, and study skills.
- One-on-one academic support:
 - Time management, organization, writing assistance, math tutoring, study skills, notetaking strategies, and more.
- 1- 45 minute meeting or 2- 30 minute meetings per week.

Delta Alpha Pi – International Honor Society

- Academic honor society founded to recognize high-achieving students with disabilities

Learning Specialists (Available during Fall/Spring semesters)

- **Laine Blankenberg, M.A.**
Accommodation & Learning Specialist

Appointments: [Book a Virtual Appointment with Laine](#)

- **Deborah LaRosa**
Writing & Learning Specialist

Appointments: [Book a Virtual Appointment with Deborah](#)

- **Donna Lee**
Accommodation & Learning Specialist

Appointments: [Book a Virtual Appointment with Donna](#)

- **Sapna Sarat**
Math & Learning Specialist

Appointments: [Book a Virtual Appointment with Sapna](#)

Helping Your Student Transition

- Going to College
<http://going-to-college.org/>
- Assessing and Improving Study Skills and Strategies
<https://www.wcsu.edu/accessability/academic-strategies/>
- Parent Resources
<https://www.wcsu.edu/accessability/family-member-resources/>
- Goals and Grades Semester Tracker
<https://www.wcsu.edu/accessability/academic-strategies/>

Helping Your Student Transition Cont.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Discuss with your student a reasonable number of classes to take. For every one class, the student will have 5 – 8 hours of outside homework, reading, writing, assignment completion, studying requirements.
- Encourage your student to find their own reason for attending college.
- Discuss grade tracking – AAS has an Excel Grade Tracker students can request to download.
- Email/communication expectations

Helping Your Student Transition Cont

- Convey to the student that transition stress is normal and often brings a temporary decline in performance (“Making the transition to college can be difficult and so what you are experiencing can simply be a normal reaction, but let’s watch it to make sure it doesn’t last too long”).
- Encourage that student to use positive coping strategies to manage transition stress including: regular exercise, use of social support, a reasonable eating and sleeping regimen, and scheduling pleasurable activities (“Tell me what you have done in the past that worked when things have been tough”).
- Have your student download Talk Campus
TalkCampus provides an online global mental health support network allowing students to access instant, 24/7, on-line support. To learn more go to [WCSU Talk Campus](#).

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

- FERPA is a federal law that protects a student's privacy interest in his or her "educational records." The term "educational records" broadly defined as those records, files, documents and other materials that contain information directly related to the student and are maintained by the university.
- FERPA generally prohibits the nonconsensual disclosure of student education records, except in specific circumstances (legitimate educational interest, health and safety emergency, judicial order) or if the student is a dependent for tax purposes.
- For more information: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/faq.html>

Add/Drop Dates

- Talk with your student about their schedule. For every class, the student will have 5-8 hours of outside homework, reading and/or assignments.
- Encourage them to review their syllabi and determine class requirements.
- If it is determined they need to switch, add, or drop classes they can do this at the registration area or on the Web (MyBanner).
- It is recommended students have a discussion with their academic advisors prior to changing their schedules.
- September 2, 2021 – Last day to add/drop a course (full semester courses).
- Important dates for the semester can be found online: Fall 2021 Academic Calendar
<https://www.wcsu.edu/calendars/next-academic-year/>

University Withdrawal Policy

- Two Types:
 - Class
 - University
- Class
 - Students can withdraw from a course up until November 19, 2021 without any penalty. Meaning only a W will be placed on a transcript.
 - After November 19, 2021 students will receive a penalty on their transcript of WF.
 - Students can submit a request to withdraw without penalty by going to the Registrar's office.
 - Note: Withdrawal may affect satisfactory academic performance, financial aid, housing and other policies.

University Withdrawal Policy Cont.

- University
 - Students may find it necessary to withdraw or take a leave from WCSU.
 - If the student plans to return to WCSU they should take a leave of absence.
 - To withdraw from the university the student should follow the formal withdrawal procedures outlined by their school dean.
 - If living on campus, student must notify housing and fill out housing withdrawal form.

Midterm grades should be posted October 22nd!

Reduced Course Loads

- Students are considered full-time when taking 12 or more credits a semester.
- Students may find it necessary to withdraw from courses mid-semester, if determined an appropriate accommodation, students may drop below 12 credits and still be considered full-time with a reduced course load accommodation.
- Note:
 - It is important to discuss with Financial Aid the implications of dropping courses. Students must show Satisfactory Academic Progress
 - Students living on campus may continue to live on campus if it is determined a reduced course load is a reasonable accommodation.

Spring 2022 Class Registration

- Students will receive an email (WCSU account) from their assigned Academic Advisor sometime in September/October introducing themselves and requesting students schedule an advising meeting.
- Students **MUST** meet with their advisor in order to discuss classes for the spring.
- The advisor will provide the student with a PIN number which is required to be entered into Banner when a student selects classes for the Spring.
- Class selection for Spring 2022 will begin Late October/Early November. Students need to meet with their advisor prior to their class “pick date”.

Getting Ready – Top 5

1. Double check your course schedule in Banner and purchase books.
[Textbook Look Up](#)
2. Request Accommodation Letters 2 – 3 weeks prior to the start of the semester (you will receive an email when it is time to request)
3. Review Blackboard Learning Module – [Learning Modules](#)
4. Sharpen your reading skills – [Academic Resources](#)
5. Purchase a planner or create online planner (free planners at Academic Advisement)



Questions?

AccessAbility Services

White Hall, Room 005

Monday – Friday: 8:00am – 4:00pm

203-837-8225

AAS@wcsu.edu

