The DASS Insider

A newsletter for SMU Faculty

Meet the DASSSEaff DASSBythe Numbers Access Issues: Otline 2 Curses&Rublications SyllabusTip ExtraMle Award Campus-wide Disability Support: PACNED Animalson Campus Visit Usat DASS Faculty Open House

role of Universal Design in higher education?

Information on disability services and access issues affecting your students and classes Vol 4 Issue 8 Want to know more about the

Access Issues: Online Course Content and Publications

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If you administer any course content to your students through an online modality, consider how a student with a disability might access the material. Students with visual or hearing impairments in particular may experience barriers with written or auditory materials that prevents them from participating in the course. The University and its faculty members should make attempts to create accessible course content from the beginning, which will eliminate frustration and scrambling in the middle of a semester.

Here is a tutorial outlining 10 simple steps toward universal

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lines recommend publishers waive digital rights management restrictions for readers with disabilities so the re-

Review the suggested template letter (linked in the artide) and consider using it when communicating with your publisher.

Also, view this 3 minute video that helps us all understand the true barriers a college student might experience when text is not made accessible.

Removing barriers on campus, in class and online creates a least of the control of the control of the control of the control of the small community.

DASS By the Numbers: Disabilities on our Campus (conc.)

During the Fall 2014 semester, 526 students were identified to DASS as having a disability and were approved for some type of accommodation. Graduates students made up 50 of the 526.

About 7% of the undergraduate population is approved for a disability-related accommodation. Most (more than half) have identified with a learning or attention disorder, less than 100 identified with a psychiatric condition, 44 identified with a medical condition, and around 20 other students identified with either a hearing or visual impairment or a physical/mobility impairment.

DASS also provides support to those with learning and attention disorders. Over 200 sessions of academic counseling were conducted in the fall semester to help these students with organizational strategies

and goal setting, as well as improving self-awareness.

Additionally, DASS does proctor tests when a faculty member is unable to do so himself/ herself, assuming the student has disability accommodations that require such proctoring. In the fall, 170 students took at least one test at DASS as we administered over 700 tests. This service is especially useful during finals and for students who have complicated accommodations such as a reader and scribe, but DASS appreciates the faculty's efforts to test as many students within the department as possible.

Lastly, some of the most common accommodations provided to DASS students are extended time (typically 1.5x), note-taking assistance, a reduced distraction environment for testing, and priority enrollment. Other less common accommodations may be appropriate at times, such as allowing the student to use a laptop for note taking or test taking, housing or dining accommodations, or providing some flexibility in attendance due to the impact of their medical condition.

Visit us onl ine at www.smu.edu/al ec/dass.asp

, I : Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first register with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS). Students can call 214-768-1470 or visit http://www.smu.edu/Provost/ALEC/DASS to begin the process. Once registered, students should then schedule an appointment with the professor as early in the semester as possible, present a DASS Accommodation Letter, and make appropriate arrangements. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and require advance notice to implement.

Visit us at DASS

5800 Ownby Drive Suite 202 Loyd Center 2nd Floor - Altshuler Learning Enhancement Center Entrance near Gate 3 of Ford Stadium Parking in the Meadows Garage

Phone: 214-768-1470 Email: dass@smu.edu



DASS IS MORE THAN ACCOMMODATIONS.

For resources that may be helpful to faculty and staff, please visit: http://www.smu.edu/Provost/ALEC/DASS/Resources/ForFaculty