

# **Student Disability Services**

## **Guide for Prospective Students and High School Counselors**

Presenter:

**Katie Fahn**

Assistant Director – Marietta Campus  
Student Disability Service  
Division of Student Affairs



# Who are we?

- Student Disability Services (SDS) is the first contact for students with disabilities to arrange accommodations and locate campus and community resources.
- There are over 1200 students who have registered with SDS and are utilizing academic accommodations for their college education.
- SDS has an office on both the Kennesaw and Marietta campus.

# The Mission of SDS

To assure equal access to all educational experiences by students with identified, legally defined disabilities, and to promote the University's knowledge of and compliance with all applicable federal and state laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.



# Who do we support?

KSU students who have a disability and need accommodations.



A disability is...as defined by the ADA:

1. A person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.
2. A person who has a history or record of such an impairment.
3. A person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment.



# Types of Disabilities



- Learning Disabilities
- Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder
- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Acquired Brain Injuries
- Psychological Disorders
- Sensory Disorders (hearing and visual impairments)
- Systemic Disorders (chronic medical conditions)
- Mobility Disorders
- Communication Disorders



# The process

- Students register by disclosing disability and providing supportive documentation to Student Disability Services (SDS).
- Disability Service Provider (DSP) reviews documentation, conducts an intake meeting with student, and determines accommodations.
- Student requests Faculty Notification Letters prior to every semester, which SDS delivers to instructors via email.
- Student meets with instructors (usually the first week of the semester) to discuss accommodations.

# Examples of accommodations

- Extended time for tests
- Testing in a low distraction environment
- Note-taking assistance
- Audio recording lectures
- Preferential seating
- Priority registration
- Relaxed attendance policy
- Academic coaching
- Sign language interpreting
- Captioning services
- Test scribe
- Assistive listening devices
- Alternate format textbooks (audio, electronic)
- Adaptive desks/chairs
- Housing accommodations

# How to register with SDS?

- ✓ Visit SDS website: [sds.kennesaw.edu](https://sds.kennesaw.edu)
- ✓ Submit the online Intake Request form with appropriate documentation of disability.
- ✓ If eligible, student will be contacted via KSU student email when their request has been reviewed to schedule an intake appointment to complete registration for services.
- ✓ Students are also welcome to call or stop by the SDS office for registration assistance at their primary campus location.



# High School versus College

Applicable laws change once students enter post-secondary education. Requirements, policies, procedures, and accommodations will be different. **Reference:** [U.S. Department of Education Article](#)

## High School

- I.D.E.A. (Goal is success)
- School provides evaluation at no cost to student.
- Student is identified by the school and supported by parents and teachers.
- Teachers may modify curriculum and/or alter pace of assignments.
- Time and assignments structured by others.

## College

- A.D.A. (Goal is access)
- Student must get evaluation at own cost.
- Student must self-identify to the office providing disability services. The student is their own advocate.
- Professors are not required to modify curriculum design or alter pace.
- Students manage own time and complete assignments independently.

# Campus Resources for Academic Support

- **Academic Tutoring and Math/Writing Centers**
  - Adult and Commuter Student Affairs- <http://studentengagement.kennesaw.edu/acsa>
  - SMART Center – <http://uc.kennesaw.edu/academicinitiatives/smart/index.php>
  - Writing Center – <http://writingcenter.kennesaw.edu>
- **Counseling & Psychological Services** – <http://counseling.kennesaw.edu/index.php>
  - Counseling (Individual and group\*)
  - Case Management
  - Career Decision Counseling
  - Workshops (U-Turn Series)
- **ESL Center** – <http://uc.kennesaw.edu/academicinitiatives/esl.php>
  - Provides tutoring in writing, reading, pronunciation, and presentation skills, as well as advising and mentoring for International students
- **Military & Veteran Services** – <http://mvs.kennesaw.edu/>
  - A one-stop-shop for students who are service members, veterans, and dependents
- **Student Disability Services** – <http://sds.kennesaw.edu>
  - Provides individualized academic accommodation plans to ensure equal access to educational opportunities for students with disabilities

# Community Resources

- [Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency](#)

Helps people with disabilities to become fully productive members of society by achieving independence and meaningful employment.

- [Regents Center for Learning Disorders](#)

A resource for assessment, training, research and resources related to students who have learning disorders.

- [Tools for Life](#)

Increases access to and acquisition of assistive technology devices and services for Georgians. Offers AT demonstrations, evaluations and assessments, funding options, AT training.

- [Emory Autism Center](#)

Provides clinical, educational and medical supports to individuals with autism (ages 15 months through adulthood).

# Questions?

- Please visit our website to learn more at [sds.kennesaw.edu](http://sds.kennesaw.edu).
- Contact Us!
  - Email: [SDS@kennesaw.edu](mailto:SDS@kennesaw.edu)
  - Phone: 470-578-2666 (Kennesaw)
  - Phone: 470-578-7361 (Marietta)

