Office of Services for Students with Disabilities

The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (OSSD) offers services for students with physical and learning disabilities. The OSSD is designed to assist students in making a successful transition to the University. The office takes a proactive stance that encourages students to understand their needs and strengths in order to best advocate for themselves.

West Chester University recognizes that some students with disabilities want minimal assistance while others require the full range of support and services. The staff of the OSSD supports students as they become more self-reliant by emphasizing their knowledge and communication skills and the understanding of their rights and obligations under the laws. To facilitate successful transition a comprehensive assessment of needs is recommended through this office.

The OSSD provides advocacy with faculty for classroom accommodations under the requirements of Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Recent, appropriate, and comprehensive documentation provided by licensed professionals must accompany requests for accommodations.

The OSSD coordinates provision of direct services for students with disabilities through support staff in the research and technical areas of the University. The office also advocates in the readmission procedure, with the offices of Financial Aid and the Registrar, and supplement advising services to the extent that the information or assistance is disability related and necessary to promote student access.

The OSSD is located within the University College and coordinates services with other units within the division, such as the Learning Assistance and Resource Center and Exploratory Studies, as well as other University offices including the Writing Center and the Office of Residence Life and Housing. In order to ensure continuity of services, students should pursue such actions prior to enrollment. Students needing financial support for personal services or interpreters should register with the appropriate agency at least six months in advance of matriculation.

Office of Services for Students with Disabilities
223 Lawrence Center
West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383
610-436-2564

Services Provided for Students with Disabilities

- Central documentation file
- Optional comprehensive needs assessment
- Advocacy with faculty
- Alternative test-taking arrangements
- Note-taking support
- Assistance with alternate format materials
- Adaptive technology
- Readers for visually impaired students
- Interpreters for deaf students