

Disability Services Strategic Plan 20/20

Mission

The Disability Services Office at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is dedicated to facilitating equal and integrated access to educational opportunities for students with disabilities in order to meet their academic and personal goals. The office coordinates appropriate academic accommodations and encourages the development of student self-advocacy skills. We further promote an inclusive environment by collaborating with students, faculty, and staff to eliminate physical, programmatic and attitudinal barriers within the campus community.

Excellence * Integrity * Leadership * Sustainability * Inclusion

Learning

Goal: Provide a supportive environment that promotes equal access to education for students.

Objective 1: Facilitate initiatives based on disability awareness, access, and services.

SLO 1: Student leaders and organizations will identify three barriers to campus-wide accessibility after disability services training.

SLO 2: The student will identify at least three different “hidden” disabilities after Disability Service’s presentation.

SLO 3: Student tour guides will accurately communicate information regarding location and contact information of the Disability Services office and identify four types of disabilities after Disability Services training.

SLO 4: The student will articulate three strategies to eliminate barriers to campus accessibility after Disability Services training.

SLO 5: The student will be able to proficiently use Assistive Technology (if Assistive Technology is utilized) after training.

SLO 6: The student will be able to identify how to obtain reasonable accommodations beyond their current university experiences at the exit interview.

Campus Climate

Goal: Promote campus-wide accessibility and inclusion for students with disabilities.

Objective 1: Provide educational programs to increase disability awareness.

Strategy 1: Enhance educational programs for faculty, staff, and students on disability related matters.

- Provide faculty training regarding accommodations, inclusion and various types of disabilities.
- Collaborate with the campus community (for example, Distance Education, Veterans Affairs, etc.) to deliver training opportunities to various groups on topics related to disability awareness, inclusion and accommodations.
- Increase classroom presentations regarding disability-related services, awareness, and access issues on campus.
- Implement Recognition Awards for faculty and staff with regard to Excellence in Inclusion and Access.
- Promote and market the mission and services provided by Disability Services.

Objective 2: Provide quality services for students with disabilities.

Strategy 1: Utilize technology to streamline processes for facilitating appropriate accommodations

- Utilize Accessibility Information Management (AIM) Software.
- Utilize Early Alert System (Starfish) for at risk students to support student achievement.
- Explore new technology and its ability to provide accommodations in place of more traditional methods.

Strategy 2: Support professional development activities for Disability Services staff

- Ensure Disability Services staff members receive cross-training across existing service areas in the department (i.e. assistive technology lab, exam services)
- Provide opportunities for professional staff members to attend local, regional, national conferences/trainings, as well as access to webinars related to the field.
- Maintain institutional membership in Texas and National AHEAD organizations.

Strategy 3: Coordinate with Academic Support Programs and community agencies & partners to meet the needs of students registered with the department.

Resources and Accountability

Goal: Develop and manage resources in order to promote the mission of the Disability Services office.

Objective 1: Manage human, financial, physical, and technological resources efficiently, effectively, and responsibly.

Strategy 1: Increase the number of qualified staff to keep pace with the needs of a growing student population.

Strategy 2: Provide competitive compensation and advancement opportunities to recruit and retain staff.

Strategy 3: Expand and improve facilities to meet the demands of a growing student population.

Strategy 4: Secure additional funding in order to provide appropriate and latest technology, equipment and resources to meet the accommodation needs of our students.

Strategy 5: Use meaningful and data-driven assessment to increase the effectiveness of service and programming.