

Student Disability Services



ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019



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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The 2018-2019 academic year was another year of growth for Student Disability Services (SDS). Students continue to come to Student Disability Services in the David Adamany Undergraduate Library to register for services and support. The number of students who registered with SDS and the number of exams administered with accommodations to students increased significantly in the past year. WSU staff and advisors have played an important role in guiding students to our resources. The Student Disability Services staff has increased in size to handle the growth of students served. We now have four disability specialists, a testing coordinator supported by testing assistants, and a staff member who is fluent in sign language managing our front desk operations. Our student management system, *Accommodate*, streamlines the registration process and exam request process for students. We are proud of the operational changes made in SDS that have allowed us to provide efficient and effective support for students. Student Disability Services has also extended the scope of its support to the entire Wayne community with the development of a mindfulness and meditation program. During the 2018-2019 academic year the meditation course consisting of four classes was offered five times to WSU students. In looking ahead, SDS looks forward to continued student growth and building our partnerships with staff and faculty to support students.

Randie Kruman

Director, Student Disability Services

YEAR AT-A-GLANCE

WSU SDS calculates our yearly data on a May 1st-April 30th calendar year. For example, 2018-2019 would be considered May 1, 2018 through April 30, 2019.

Total Number of WSU Students Registered with SDS

2017-2018:		2018-2019:	
Fall 2017	Undergraduate - 5.7%	Fall 2018	Undergraduate - 6.0%
	Graduate - 3.0%		Graduate - 3.7%
	Professional - 5.5%		Professional - 6.7%
Winter 2018	Undergraduate - 5.5%	Winter 2019	Undergraduate - 6.0%
	Graduate - 3.0%		Graduate - 4.2%
	Professional - 5.8%		Professional - 5.4%
Total:	4.9%	Total:	5.5%

Percentage of WSU Students Registered with SDS by



Number of New Students Registered with SDS

2017-2018: 431 2018-2019: 536
(Increase of 24.4% for one year)

Number of Accommodation Letters Issued (by semester)

2017-2018

Fall 2017: 590

Winter 2018: 497

2018-2019

Fall 2018: 630

Winter 2019: 554



SDS has increased the number of accommodation letters issued in the fall semester by 6.3% percent and in the winter semester by 10.3% in the past year.

Graduation Statistics

Fall 2017: 23

Fall 2018: 38

Winter 2018: 66

Winter 2019: 51

Spring/Summer 2018: 24

Spring/Summer 2019: 19

Testing

Fall 2018

Number of exams scheduled: 1829

Number of exams administered: 1786

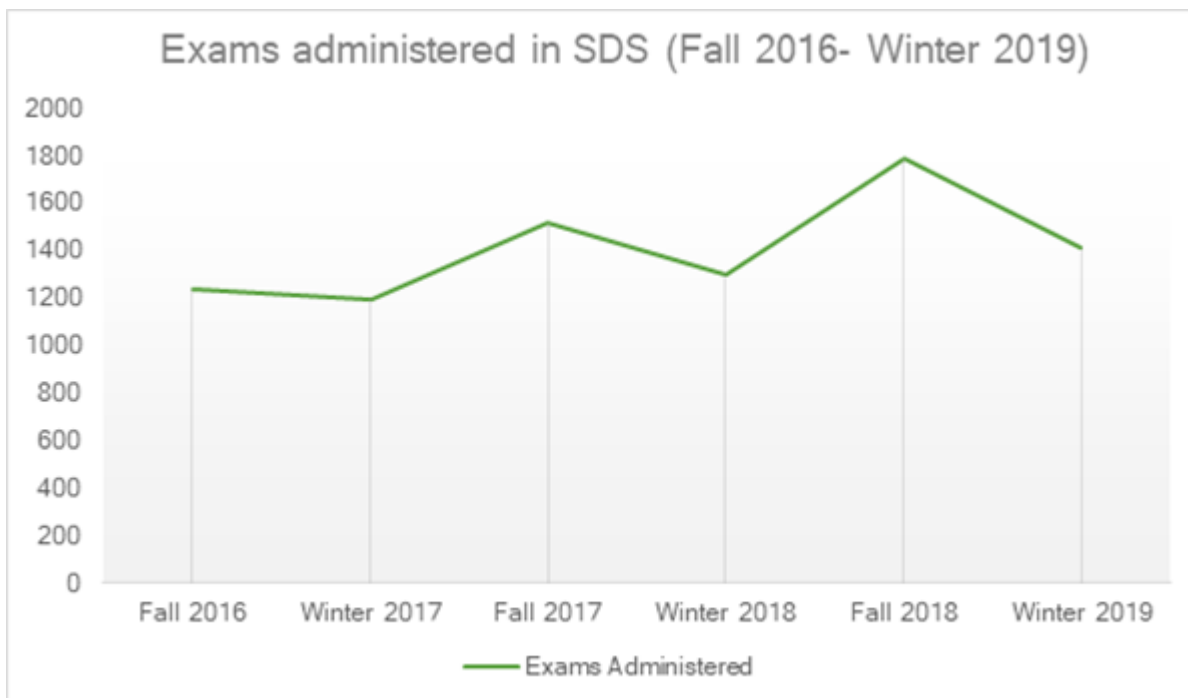
98% show rate for students scheduling exams with accommodations in SDS.

Winter 2019

Number of exams scheduled: 1460

Number of exams administered: 1410

97% show rate for students schedule exams with accommodations in SDS.



What does this mean for SDS? The number of exams administered in SDS continues to rise each year. Between Fall 2016 and Fall 2018 the number of tests administered in SDS has increased by 44%. Student Disability Services has kept up with this period of rapid growth by making some adjustments to the department.

To begin with, study carrels were purchased and are now being used in the testing rooms; this has doubled our capacity for testing students. Next, SDS has invested in a state-of-the-art camera monitoring system that allows us to observe students testing in the testing rooms, so we may uphold the integrity of the test taking environment. The cameras also allow for the testing team to monitor students who may have seizures or other conditions that may impact them during the testing time. There are now two testing technicians in the office to assist with the testing process, the monitoring of students and the administration of the exams. Finally, we have recently coordinated with our liaisons on campus to provide volunteers during final exams week, to help administer exams and monitor students.

Ten Most Common Disability Diagnoses of SDS Registered Students

1. Anxiety 20%
2. ADHD 15%
3. Depression 12%
4. Other** 7%
5. Learning Disability- Reading 5%
6. Bipolar Disorder 3%
7. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder 3%
8. Learning Disability- Math 2%
9. Hearing Impaired 2%
10. Visually Impaired 2%

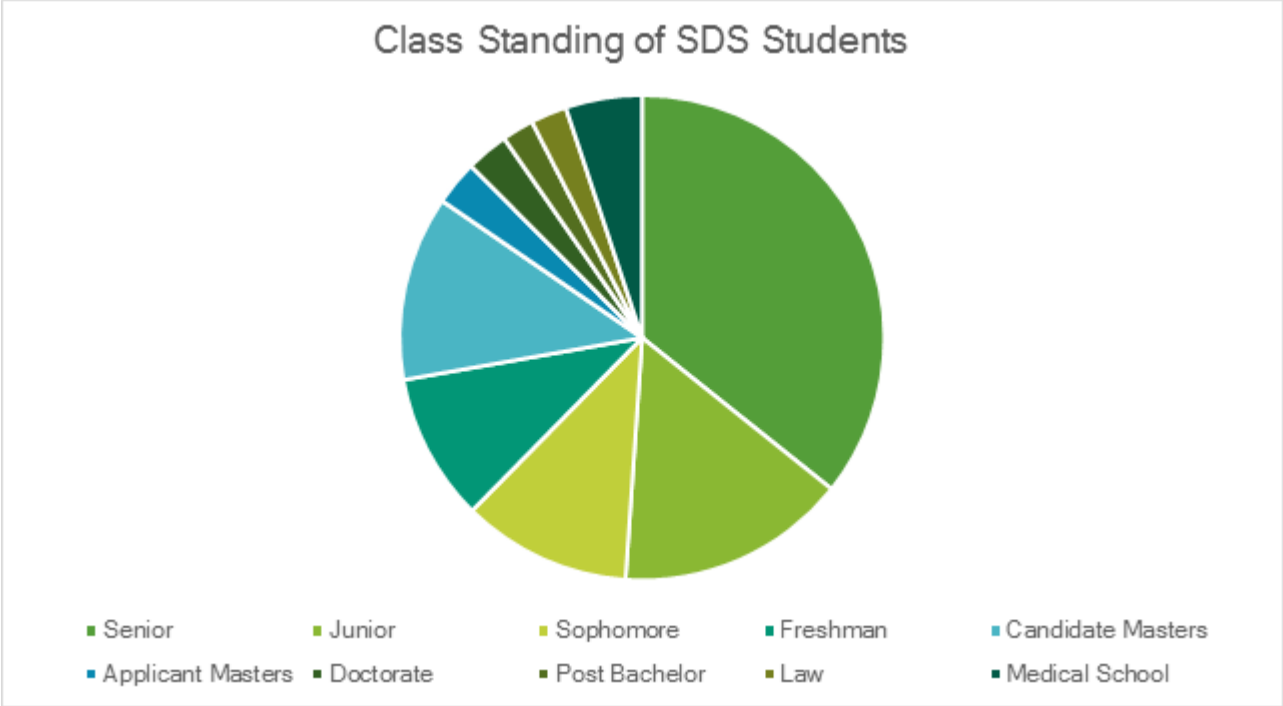
**Other is a category used most often by less common health conditions such as chronic headaches, pain syndrome, etc..

Many of these conditions are co-occurring for students registered with SDS.

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Class Standing

- Senior: 504
- Junior: 217
- Sophomore: 159
- Freshman: 139
- Candidate Masters: 174
- Applicant Masters: 42
- Doctorate: 40
- Post Bachelor: 30
- Law: 34
- Medical School: 72
- Pharm D: 11
- Specialist: 2
- Post Masters: 3
- Graduate Certificate: 5

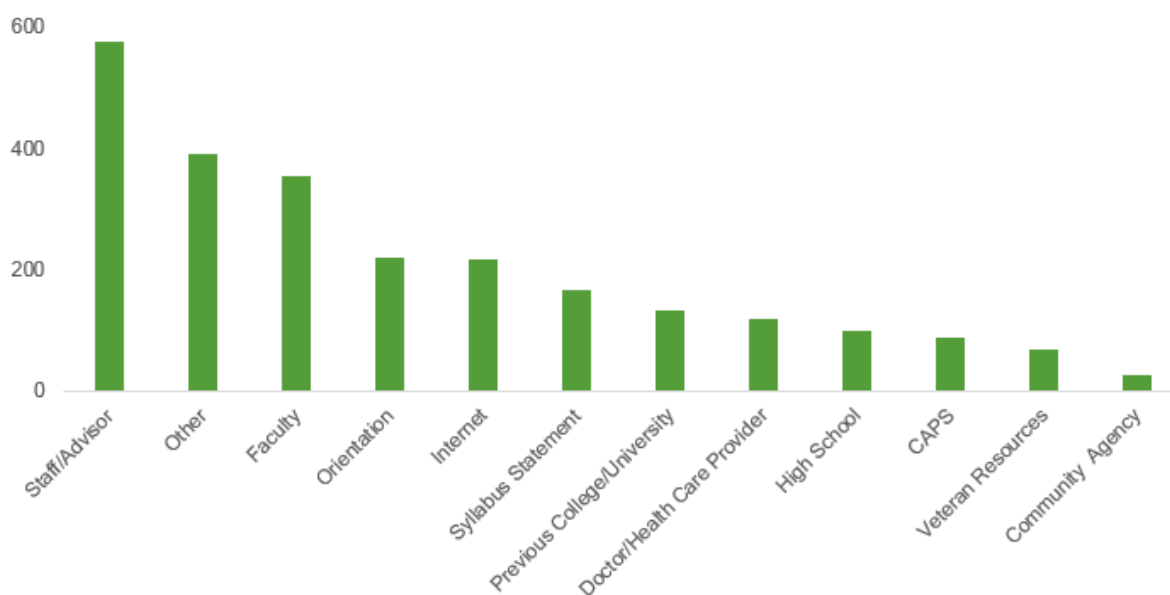


Number of Veterans Registered with Student Disability Services, as of July 2019: 78

Referral sources (as reported by students at initial appointment)

- Staff/Advisor: 809
 - Most common departments referring per student report: Law, Medicine, University Advising Center, Social Work, Psychology, and Math.
- Other: 485
 - Orientation was not an original choice on the self-selection menu so many “others” are noted as being from orientation. ‘Parents’ was the second highest referral source written in for other.
- Faculty: 476
- Orientation: 337
- Internet: 279
- Syllabus Statement: 238
- Previous College or University: 185
- Doctor/Health Care Provider: 175
- High School: 135
- CAPS: 144
- Veteran Resources: 79
- Community Agency: 31

Referral Sources



CORE SERVICES

Alternate Text Requests

Effective Spring/Summer 2019, students can request alternate textbooks formats using our online system, Accommodate. This allows student more independence and affords SDS more concrete data when tracking the number of requests fulfilled each term. Disability Specialists will begin encouraging students to seek their textbooks in digital formats that are often already accessible, using sources such as Bookshare, Vital Source, Amazon, and the WSU Bookstore. We will continue to request accessible formats from publishers for texts that students do not get in a digital/accessible format. The option to cut and scan texts into accessible formats also remains a possibility.

This change is the result of a national shift towards reading material being more readily available via digital resources.

Other Unique Accommodations

ASL/Video phone - We are fortunate enough to have a new staff person who is fluent in American Sign Language (ASL). Having this staff member on board allows us to more efficiently utilize the Sonocent video phone that resides in our office. This provides access to deaf/hard of hearing students who use ASL as their primary language. The phone is connected to a video relay service and the phone number is published on all promotional material and our website.

Y.M., non-traditional student; Computer Science major; legally-blind
Student has significant challenges due to her visual impairment. She must take several mathematics courses for her major and cannot see the board during lecture. This makes following along and retaining math procedures difficult. The student works with the Bureau for Services for Blind Persons who will pay for a tutor. The student's Disability Specialist works with the Academic Success Center to secure a tutor that can provide 10 hours of tutoring per week. She also utilizes the Accessible Technology Lab after-hours for access to a CCTV during study time.

D.W., non-traditional student; M.A. Math major; dyslexia
Student was unable to read certain symbols and misinterpreted symbols and equations. He required specific formatting of his Math text material to make it accessible. Student could not work on paper exams and required a reader who was knowledgeable in upper level math because any mistake in reading could result in a loss of points. When a reader was not possible, exams were put in MathML format, an add-on to Word which allowed the student to be gain more independence in testing.

OUTREACH EFFORTS

We continue to conduct information sessions and provide disability related awareness to multiple departments on campus. Specifically, we have provided outreach services to Nursing, School of Medicine, Mortuary Science, Pharmacy, Admissions, School of Business. In addition, we work with community organizations to provide information about SDS resources. We partner with Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) and high schools in the community to offer support to students with disabilities.

A vocational counselor from MRS spends one day per week in the fall and winter semesters and one day every other week in the spring/summer semesters at our office to make themselves available to SDS students seeking employment services. We have hosted three open house events to encourage our students to meet the vocational counselor in our office. We also have a referral form and drop-box to keep track of referrals.

STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student Testimonials

“SDS has been so supportive of me and my needs. They are my second family. They have seen me at my best and they have seen me at my worse. Despite my disabilities, they have encouraged me and helped me to see my ability to succeed. I will have my degree in less than 2 weeks and I do not know how I would have made it without them. Truly a blessing and a gift to myself and WSU.” - S.B., senior, Social Work major

“The SDS staff are the best. It seems as though every time I need them, they are there for me. I can go on and on about how they have and continue to assist me, but one of the most significant things I appreciate from the office is that they contact my professors way in advance to see what type of accommodations I can get or will need. Every time I'm having a crisis, SDS is a phone call away.” - N.K., senior, Nutrition and Food Science major

“Student disability services has been an effective catalyst to my success at Wayne state. With the tremendous support from my counselor, I was able to achieve the highest grades that I ever have in my time in college. All of the staff are friendly and happy to help in any way that they can. I would highly recommend SDS to any student.” - Y.M., senior, Social Work major

“Student Disability Services at Wayne State University has helped me immensely in my decision to return to Academia. Unlike academic advising, where the focus is to mold the student to the program of study, SDS tends more to mold the program of study to the student. The focus being on the student. The two Disability Specialists I worked with deserve five stars plus for excelling in that task. RMS soon to graduate - A grateful Warrior!” - R.S., senior philosophy major

“After high school graduation, I was super nervous about going to college. Going into Wayne State University was really intimidating. I worried, what if I fail? Once I got into classes and met so many people, I realized I was not alone. I was not the only one that struggled. Everybody in college is fighting for an opportunity to be accepted. Everybody has a story of their struggles. They all passed and failed in school and life. Life isn't easy when you just graduated from high school and are transitioning to college. When it gets to be intense, SDS is there to help. There are wonderful disability specialists that can lead you in the right direction. Being a Wayne State Warrior, I had a wonderful disability specialist. She pushed me to be my best. She helped me when I was at my worst. Having a disability specialist that was there for me when I struggled with classes made me feel more motivated to be my best and do my best. So, whenever you need support come to SDS. There are so many friendly faces that will turn your day around! 😊 -A.B., recent graduate (BA in Communication Studies, Fall 2018