



Office of Disability Services

Who, When, Where, What,
How, and Why?



Who We Are

- Program Staff includes Licensed Social Workers, Certified Teachers, Disability Specialists, Assistive Technology Specialist, and Certified Rehabilitation Counselors
 - Director: Colleen Lewis (cl2328@columbia.edu)
 - Assistant Director: Neera Jain (nj2171@columbia.edu)
 - Coordinator for SW Students: Jennifer McGrath (jm3269@columbia.edu)
 - Learning Specialist: Debra Wool (dw2390@columbia.edu)
 - Assistive Technology Specialist: Kelvin Mahabir (km2644@columbia.edu)



Who We Are

- ODS Liaisons at Social Work
 - Office of Admissions and Student Services
 - David Yam (dy2@columbia.edu)
 - Karma Lowe (knl3@columbia.edu)
 - Jennifer Kurosman (jld2166@columbia.edu)



What We Do

- ODS facilitates equal access and coordinates reasonable accommodations for Columbia's students with disabilities while preserving the integrity of academic standards
- ODS supports the full participation of students with disabilities in all aspects of University life, including coordination of housing accommodations, technology & library access, co-curricula programs and activities, and accommodations at field placements.



What We Do

- ODS evaluates students' documentation, determines their disability status, and makes recommendations for reasonable accommodations in a manner that is mindful of Columbia's rigorous curricula and technical standards of SW program.
- ODS supports students with disabilities by providing individual consultation and small group workshops that assist students in developing their compensatory and academic skills.



What We Do

- Provide the opportunity for students **and** instructors to consult with Learning Specialist and Assistive Technology Specialist
 - For Students: provide disability specific consultation and general academic and technology skills to assist students with their coursework and materials
 - For Instructors: provide assistance in making courses and teaching more accessible and guidance on individual student issues



Where We Are

- Morningside Campus: Lerner Hall
- Medical Center: 101 Bard Hall
- Online: www.health.columbia.edu/ods



When Are We There

- Lerner Hall: M-F 8am-5pm
- Bard Hall: M 1-5pm, T/Th 10am-5pm
- Available at other times at both locations by appointment



Who We Work With

- 500+ students per academic year
 - 35-40 Social Work students annually
- Types of disabilities: physical, sensory, chronic medical conditions, psychological, AD/HD, and learning.
- Most have invisible disabilities that may involve difficulties with information processing, reading, learning, sustaining attention, and listening.



How We Work

- Students submit an *Application for Accommodations and Services* along with supporting documentation of their condition or disability to ODS
- ODS evaluates these and determines if the student qualifies as a person with a disability under Section 504/ADA



How We Work

- Reasonable Accommodations are adjustments to policy, procedures, or practice that give students with disabilities opportunity to succeed or fail on their own merit
- Examples: Sign-language interpreting services, extended time on exams, note-taking services, and assistive technology.



How We Work

- Reasonable accommodations do not alter program or course standards
- Reasonable accommodations remove barriers to give students with disabilities to meet the same standards as students without disabilities



How We Work

- ODS coordinates the implementation of reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities by collaborating with ODS liaisons in each school, faculty, advisors, and other University officials
- Based on the student's disability needs and ODS' understanding of his/her program requirements, ODS makes recommendations for reasonable accommodations



How We Work

- Common Accommodations by Disability Type
 - Caution: accommodations will vary among students with same disability type
 - Students with Visual Disabilities
 - Handouts
 - Powerpoint
 - Textbooks
 - Group Activities
 - Videos
 - Field-trip/off-campus assignments
 - Technology
 - Courseworks



How We Work

- Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students
 - Communication
 - Sign-language interpreters
 - CART or other transcription services
 - Videos and other media
 - Group Activities
 - Note-taking Services



Who, Revisited.

- ODS also works with students who are not diagnosed with a disability, but are experiencing unexplained academic difficulty
- Professors are encouraged to contact ODS for consultation regarding a particular student
- Professors may speak to students in a confidential space, and encourage them to speak to someone at ODS
- Consultations with the learning specialist are available to non-registered students



Campus Resources

- Health Services www.health.columbia.edu
 - Primary Care Medical Services
 - Counseling & Psychological Services
 - Alice! Health Promotions
 - Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Program (SVPRP)