It’s Not Just About Extended Time: Evolution of Testing Accommodations and Ensuring Equitable Experiences for Students with Disabilities

Presenters
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University of Southern California, Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS)
We ask you to join us in creating a culture that reflects…

Access and Inclusion

and

Civility and Respect

…this week and in all aspects of our organization.
Learning Objectives

1) Learn strategies for building a testing center

1) Learn to implement testing accommodations to eliminate access barriers

1) Learn to navigate common challenges with students and faculty
Why did we need a Testing Center?

- Exponential growth of student population
- Limited space
- Compliance
Why did we need a Testing Center?
Gaining Senior Leadership Buy-In

• It’s all about the numbers!
  • Benchmarking efforts
  • Testing Center Data
## Growth of Students with Testing Accommodations

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Current Testing Center Layout
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Current Testing Center Layout
Implementing Complex Accommodations

- Engage in the interactive process!
  - Diagnosis(es) impact students in different ways
- Communication between Specialists and Testing Center staff
Navigating Challenges with Students and Faculty

Equitable student experiences can only be achieved through collaboration with students, faculty, and disability services staff

Communication is Key!
Common Faculty Concerns

- Academic Integrity
- Advantage vs Equal Access
Common Faculty Concerns-Best Practices

- Exam Check-In Checklist
- Video Monitoring
- Student Judicial Affairs
Common Faculty Concerns-Best Practices

- Education and communication
- Accommodations and fundamental alterations
Common Student Concerns

- Access to professors during testing
- Scheduling conflicts
- Preferences vs Accommodations
Student Concerns-Best Practices

- Ensure Testing Center has professor contact information, allow students to ask questions during exams
- Allow students to change date and/or time of exams for disability-related reasons with faculty support
Student Concerns-Best Practices

- Preferences vs Accommodations

Notes for Testing Center Staff:

Student prefers to sit facing wall in classroom A

Hint: This field will only apply when you have a testing center, that is managed by another department (centralized testing center).
Student Concerns-Best Practices

- Encourage open communication between OSAS Specialist and students
- Document communications and concerns that occur at Testing Center
Questions?
Contact Information

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Session Evaluation

• Your feedback helps shape future programming.

• Thank you for attending and Fight On!