EVERYTHING YOU’VE WANTED TO KNOW AS A NEW DS PROFESSIONAL

JENNIFER MURCHISON, JMURCHIS@MEMPHIS.EDU
DANIEL NUSS, DNUSS@PACIFIC.EDU
INTRODUCTION

Jennifer Murchison, MA
• Assistant Director, Disability Resources for Students at the University of Memphis
• 20+ years in disability services
• 15+ years at the University of Memphis in Memphis, TN

Daniel Nuss, MA
• Director, Services for Students with Disabilities at the University of the Pacific
• 20+ years in disability services
• 17+ years at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA
AGENDA

• Discuss definitions, legal requirements and regulations
• Purposes of Accommodations
• Working with Faculty
• Working with Administration
• Your questions for us
NOT ALL DISABILITIES ARE APPARENT…

Largest populations we serve?

- ADHD
- Learning disabilities
- Psychological disabilities
  - Anxiety
  - Depression
  - Bi-Polar
- Autism spectrum
- Chronic Health
- Neurological
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

• Provides for equal access in the classroom and learning environments

• Provides for arrangement of accommodations that are reasonable and appropriate

The Americans with Disabilities Act (and Web Accessibility Guidelines)

• Provides for equal access and opportunities to publicly-accessed facilities, and those accepting federal monies

• Includes physically-built and digital environments
ACCOMMODATIONS: THE ACT OF REMOVING BARRIERS

- Physical access
  - Buildings and elevators
  - Doorways and seating
  - Evacuation plans and pathways around campus

- Learning environments (in-person, online)
  - Reading materials and hand-outs, videos
  - Quizzes and exams
  - Papers, projects, presentations

- On-campus housing
  - Private rooms, bathrooms
  - Alarms
  - ESAs and PCAs
WORKING WITH FACULTY

• They want to help but don’t know how/where to start
• Syllabus!!
• Assessments, teaching methods
• TAs and Adjuncts – challenges they face, support that may/may not have
WORKING WITH ADMINISTRATION

- Budgets, expenses
- Disability as a valued aspect of diversity
- On-board with messaging
- Promoting Universal Design concepts
- Understanding of what we do (should be proactive, not reactive)
QUESTIONS?

Thank you for your attention and participation!

Jennifer Murchison – jlmurchis@memphis.edu

Daniel Nuss – dnuss@pacific.edu