

Breaking Barriers

Empowering Graduate Health Science Students with Disabilities for Success in School and Beyond

This session explored the unique challenges graduate health science students face when seeking accommodations. Nathaly and Stephen shared strategies from FIU's Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, including early outreach, cross-department collaboration, and proactive support. The session emphasized tailored processes, reducing stigma, faculty engagement, and institutional coordination to ensure equitable access throughout students' academic journeys.

Building Awareness

This starts by ensuring that disability services are discussed in student and faculty orientation. Also, syllabi should have a statement on how to access accommodations.

Being Proactive

Help Students understand how accommodations are applied in school, work, and standardized testing. These processes are not always very "standardized".

Be Consistent

More and more data and real-world stories show people with disabilities thriving in healthcare professions. Keep advocating, supporting students, and training faculty to better implement accommodations.

Institutional Collaborations

Build connections with key staff & academics. Keep open lines of communication, such as through monthly check-in meetings.

Normalize Accommodations

Some students know about their disabilities from a young age, but some don't. Some may have coped well in K-12 or undergrad with minimal support. Learn to help these students adjust to Graduate Health Science Education!

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