

Transcript: Disability Access Center 2020 Orientation Video

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The Disability Movement is a Civil Rights movement working to move an underrepresented group of people toward full inclusion in our society.

Hi, my name is Kona and I am an accommodation manager at the Disability Access Center at Western Washington University. Our staff, comprised of both people with disabilities and are allies, is dedicated and motivated to ensure the full inclusion of students with disabilities in all aspects of the student experience.

We currently serve over 10 percent or about 2,000 at Western Washington University. A person can become a member of the disability community at any point in life. Some people are born into this community and some have life paths that lead them in. Some disabilities are visible to our society and others are invisible. Whatever time you have arrived, whether your disability is visible or invisible, our office and community are open to you. If you are a student with a disability, you are eligible for services at the Disability Access Center. We have an interactive process in which an accommodations counselor will meet with you to help identify barriers to your student experience and determine ways we can remove those barriers using accommodations.

Our counselors are rad. They have a broad range of education, experience, and are always envisioning the future of the disability community. We have a wide range of services we can implement for specific situations. For example, some students require captions to fully understand content presented in class. For this, part of our team is dedicated to live transcription services as well as captioning videos used in courses. These folks provide the service for both in-person and online classes.

To start the process toward obtaining an accommodation, you will first need to fill out an application online at disability.wvu.edu. Once the application is submitted, our office will contact you to make an appointment.

Some helpful things to have completed and submitted before meeting an accommodation counselor are a DAC application, previous accommodation documentation, so that could be a 504 or an IEP, a letter from a healthcare provider, or you can even have a learning evaluation. Our student staff are the people who answer phones and help coordinate appointments. Some also create alternative formats for books and articles for use in courses. They are awesome and they will be able to assist you with the logistics of our process.

If you have questions, even before starting the application, you can still make an appointment with us. Just call our office at 360-650-3083.

The process of obtaining an accommodation can start at any time before or during your studies at Western Washington University and we would enjoy the opportunity to work with you.

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[End video]