Teaching Students with Disabilities

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What defines a disability?

- Disability is, in part, defined by the environments we create.

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
  - "A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual."

- Major life activities include:
  - "Caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, communicating, and working."
Disability @ UR

- About 5% of student population (450 students)
- Invisible disabilities more common
  - Learning Disabilities & ADHD – 54%
  - Mental Health Conditions – 17%
  - Autism Spectrum Disorders – 3%
  - Medical Conditions – 12%
  - Sensory Disabilities – 5%
  - Physical/Motor Disabilities – 2%

Disability Services @ UR

- Disability Compliance Director
  - Lynnett Van Slyke
  - Oversees all of University compliance in collaboration with office of counsel

- Access Coordinators
  - AS&E – Three Professionals housed in CETL
  - Other schools - One staff member assigned
  - Make accommodation decisions
  - Issue letters of accommodation to instructors
  - Ensure student access to curriculum
Let’s talk about social justice

FOR A FAIR SELECTION EVERYBODY HAS TO TAKE THE SAME EXAM! PLEASE CLIMB THAT TREE

Moving toward Universal Design
Disability in your classroom

- What are the course standards and requirements?
- What are the essential components?
- What flexibility is already built in?
- What barriers still exist?

How can Disability Resources help instructors?

- Making accommodation decisions and/or consulting on accommodation concerns
- Test proctoring
- Note takers
- Arranging for sign language interpreters
- Creating accessible materials
- Supporting inclusive teaching practices
CETL Disability Resources

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