



## Office of Student Disability Services and Equal Access

### ***Empowering Students With Disabilities***

The Office of Disability and Equal Access services of Dakota Wesleyan University is located in the George and Eleanor McGovern Library. This office works to ensure equal access and full participation for persons with disabilities in post-secondary education as outlined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. We hope to help empower students with disabilities to obtain the education and skills necessary for a fulfilling, productive career after leaving Dakota Wesleyan University.

### **Section 504 Of The Rehabilitation Act, Postsecondary**

*\*\*\* No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States...shall, solely by reason of handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.*

### ***What Is Considered A Disability?***

DWU uses the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as a guide to define disability; a condition which substantially limits a major life activity (such as walking, talking, learning, hearing, and/or seeing). Services will be provided to students with learning disabilities, chronic health conditions (diabetes, epilepsy, etc), psychological conditions, and/or mobility, visual, speech and coordination impairments. Students with temporary conditions such as broken arms, sprained ankles, etc, are also eligible for services.

### ***How Do I Request Services?***

Students can request services by contacting, Donna Dunn, the Office of Disability and Equal Access staff person. An appointment can be made to discuss documentation requirements and a needs assessment for accommodations. Services are not retroactive; notification and requests must be made by the student in order to receive services.

### ***What Services Can You Expect?***

Services are based on the individual need of each student and may include ensuring a physically accessible environment; specialized academic and career advising; extended test time in a quiet room; supplying an auxiliary aid; and a variety of other services.



### ***What Type Of Documentation Is Required?***

Documentation of disabilities is necessary to initiate and receive services through the Office of Disability and Equal Access. Students with learning disabilities may submit a current (within 3 yrs) IEP (Individualized Education Plan) or similar documentation which provides details on the diagnostic evaluation of the disability. It is suggested that an in-coming high school student's parent, guardian or concerned party request re-testing prior to graduation to ensure current *adult scaled* documentation. Others may need a letter from a physician, psychologist and/or psychiatrist to document a specific physical or mental limitation.

### ***What Type Of Support Software Is Currently In Place?***

***Dragon Naturally Speaking*** is a fast and accurate voice dictation program for word-processing. The software tunes itself to the student's voice and allows the student to begin dictating papers with ease. The student's words appear typed and in the correct tense and spelling within seconds of the verbal cue. Many computer functions such as BOLD and SAVE can be programmed to be controlled by voice. The computer mouse can also be programmed to function by voice commands.

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**Kurzweil 3000** is software which reads scanned or electronic text aloud using human sounding synthetic speech. Files may be loaded to an iPod. Words are highlighted in contrast as they are spoken. Entire texts can be scanned into the software and then read to the student. This software has been useful for students with auditory or visual impairments, English as second language students, auditory learners, and students with dyslexia.

### ***Is Special Parking Available?***

If there is a permanent or temporary physical or mental impairment that substantially limits mobility, contact Donna Dunn, the Office of Student Disability Services Coordinator to make arrangements at 995-2904. The office is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor – McGovern Library, Room 231.

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### ***Additional Resources***

The Office of Disability and Equal Access encourages students to proactively educate themselves and establishing a network of support. The following links and numbers may be useful in this endeavor:

*Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD):* local chapter in Sioux Falls: Sioux Empire CHADD [www.chadd.org](http://www.chadd.org) 1-605-336-9973

*Citizen Advocacy Program (CHAP):* Pierre, SD 1-605-224-4475

*South Dakota Advocacy Services:* Pierre, SD 1-605-224-8294 or 1-800-658-4782 [www.sdadvocacy.com](http://www.sdadvocacy.com)

*South Dakota Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities:* Pierre, SD 1-605-945-2207 or 1-800-210-0143

*South Dakota Parent Connection:* Sioux Falls, SD [www.sdparent.org](http://www.sdparent.org) 1-605-361-3171 or 1-800-640-4553

*DakotaLink: Rapid City, SD*  
<http://dakotalink.tie.net> 1-605-394-1876 or 1-800-645-0673

*Learning Disability Association of America*  
[www.ldanatl.org](http://www.ldanatl.org) 1-412-341-1515

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## **EMPOWERING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

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