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Accommodating Students with Disabilities

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UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

Student Affairs
Center for Educational Access

Accommodating Students with Disabilities

Laura A. James
Director, Center for Educational Access

RELEVANT FEDERAL LAWS

- ▶ **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**
 - Applies to public and private institutions
- ▶ **Rehabilitation Act, Section 504 & 508**
 - Applies to institutions receiving federal funding
- ▶ **Fair Housing Act**
 - Applies to institutions with campus housing



CEA PURPOSE

Facilitate campus access

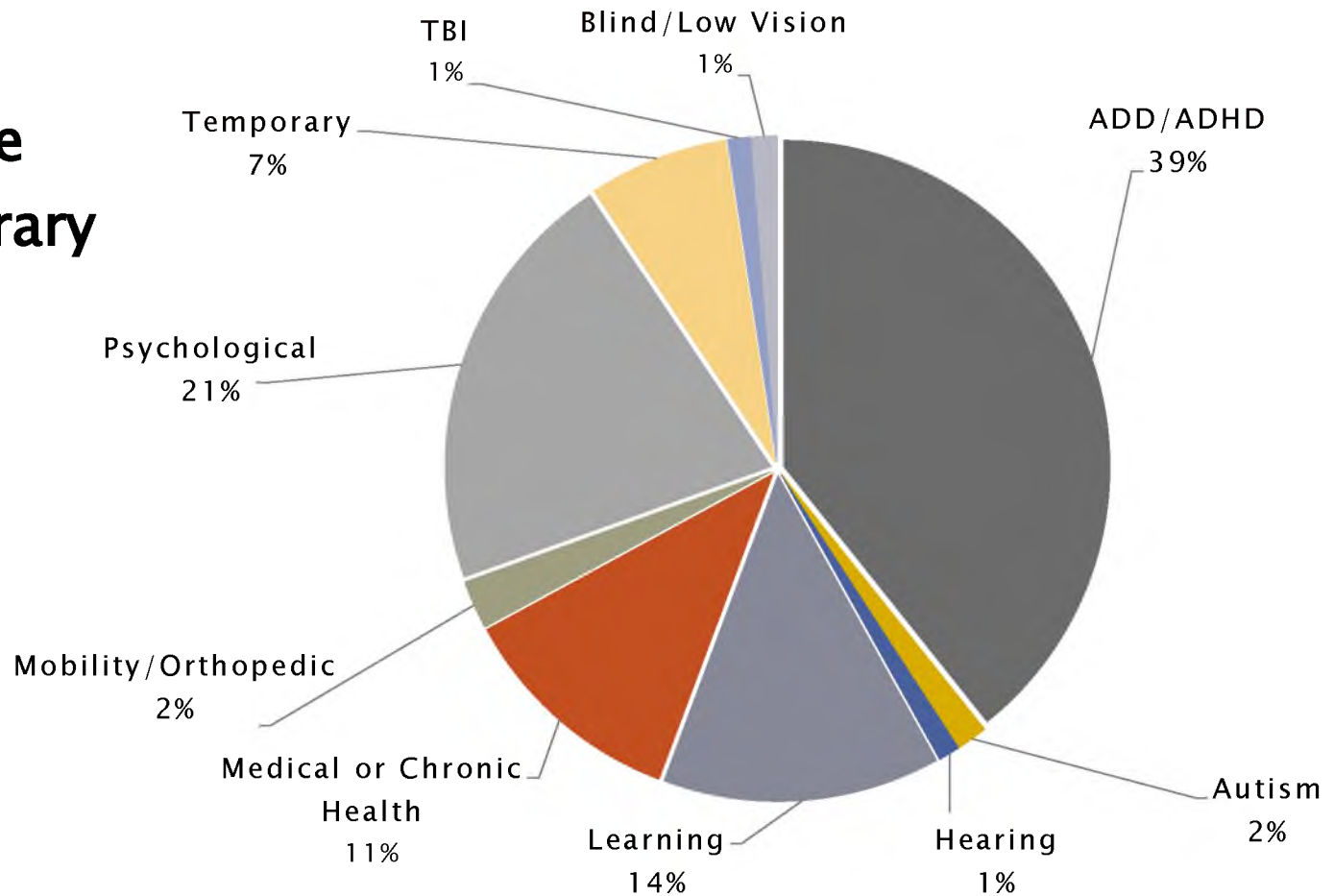
- ▶ Direct support
- ▶ Education & training



The Social Model of Disability. ([Inclusion Scotland, 2017](#)).

THE SCOPE OF DISABILITY

- ▶ Visible
- ▶ Invisible
- ▶ Temporary



CY 2019

Primary Disability – 2,984 Active Students

CEA REGISTRATION & ELIGIBILITY



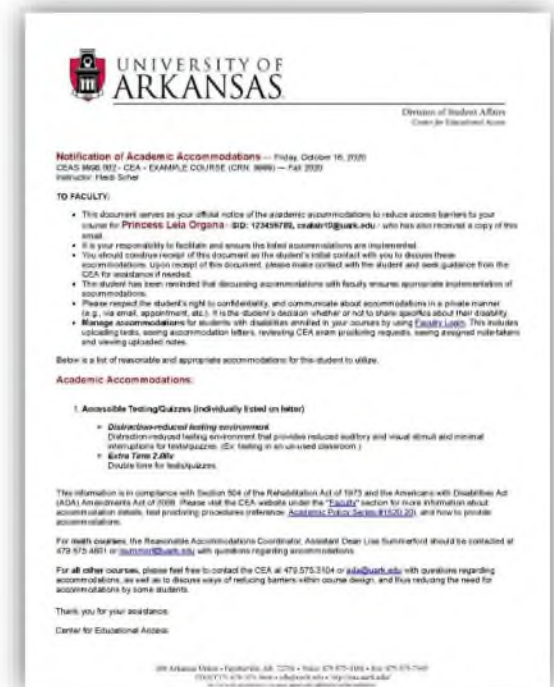
- ▶ Student must self-identify
- ▶ Interactive discussion between student and CEA
- ▶ Student provides documentation of disability
- ▶ CEA verifies student's eligibility for services and determines appropriate accommodations

ACCOMMODATION PROCESS

- ▶ Student completes accommodation request form
- ▶ Faculty receive notification letter detailing accommodations
 - Course specific
 - Notice is student's initial contact to discuss accommodations
- ▶ Faculty and student outline plan for accommodation implementation
- ▶ Consult CEA if concerns arise

NOTE:

- May be implemented at any time
- Not retroactively applied



COMMON ACCOMMODATIONS

- ▶ Housing access needs
- ▶ Service & emotional support animals
- ▶ Extra test time & distraction-reduced testing environment
- ▶ Note-taking assistance
- ▶ Audio recording of lectures
- ▶ Accessible digital course materials & textbooks
- ▶ Attendance flexibility
 - Details available on [CEA website](#).
 - Document discussion using [Attendance Agreement Form](#) or via email.



ACCOMMODATION QUICK TIPS

1. **Include a [syllabus statement](#)** on accommodation process
 - Upload course syllabus to [UA syllabus bank](#) via UA Connect
2. **Contact students with disabilities** upon receiving the email notification from CEA
 - Create an email template
3. **Review accommodation letters** with students
 - Have a general plan for common accommodations; make individual arrangements when needed
 - Follow up discussion with an email

ACCOMMODATION QUICK TIPS

4. Use [Blackboard Ally](#) to create accessible learning materials
5. **Have all course materials available several weeks in advance of their use**
 - Arkansas Law ([Act 175 of 2007](#)) requires all textbook and course material information to be available for public viewing:
 - Spring term by November 1st
 - Summer and Fall terms by April 1st

ACCOMMODATION QUICK TIPS

6. **Show only closed-captioned/transcribed videos**
7. **Provide outlines/copies of presentations on course website or Blackboard**
8. **Identify a potential note-taker for your course**
 - CEA will contact you via email if a note-taker is needed
 - COVID-19 considerations:
 - Utilize the "[transcription](#)" tool on recorded ZOOM lectures
 - Make lecture recordings available on Blackboard
 - Zoom [accessibility](#) features



ACCOMMODATION QUICK TIPS

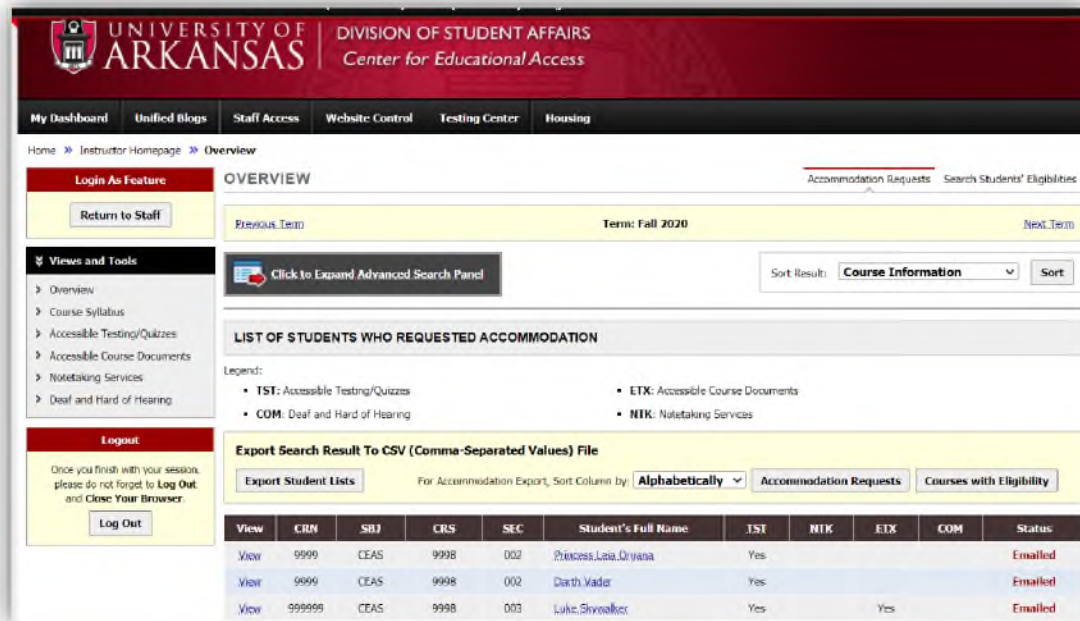
9. **Identify possible alternate testing locations in advance**
 - Look for locations in the department if feasible ([Academic Policy Series 1520.20](#))
 - [CEA Test Center's](#) proctoring service primarily assists with facilitating complex accommodations (*ex: Alternate Format, Assistive Software*)
 - Request services for a course by completing an online testing agreement that includes exam details and proctoring instructions
 - COVID-19 safety restrictions – strongly consider online exams for **all students**

ACCOMMODATION QUICK TIPS

10. Consult with CEA on access concerns

- Consider website and overall course accessibility

11. Manage accommodations using [CEA Faculty Login](#)



The screenshot displays the University of Arkansas Center for Educational Access (CEA) Faculty Login interface. The header includes the university logo and the text "DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS Center for Educational Access". A navigation bar contains links for "My Dashboard", "Unified Blogs", "Staff Access", "Website Control", "Testing Center", and "Housing". The main content area is titled "OVERVIEW" and shows the current term as "Fall 2020". It includes a "LIST OF STUDENTS WHO REQUESTED ACCOMMODATION" section with a legend for request types: TST (Accessible Testing/Quizzes), COM (Deaf and Hard of Hearing), EIX (Accessible Course Documents), and NIK (Notetaking Services). Below the legend is a table of student requests.

View	CRN	SBJ	CRS	SEC	Student's Full Name	TST	NIK	EIX	COM	Status
View	9999	CEAS	9998	002	Phincess, Leia Qiyana	Yes				Emailed
View	9999	CEAS	9998	002	Darth Vader	Yes				Emailed
View	999999	CEAS	9998	003	Luke Skywalker	Yes		Yes		Emailed

BONUS: Review Disability-Related Accommodations & Accessibility Guidelines on [Keep Teaching](#) website

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ **Proactively evaluate access barriers when developing course/program**
 - Adjust pedagogy
 - Modify equipment and environment
 - Utilize technology
 - Incorporate Universal Design principles
 - Outline a general plan for common accommodations
- ▶ **Determine essential or fundamental learning outcomes for course/program**
- ▶ **Maintain student confidentiality**
 - Never ask about a specific disability/diagnosis
- ▶ **Contact CEA with questions regarding accommodations**
 - **The CEA is a resource for faculty**

ACCESS MATTERS, BECAUSE:

- ▶ **Students with disabilities make up an important cross-section of the University** – approx. 10% of our student population.
- ▶ **It allows students to learn and be evaluated fairly**, based on their merits (not based on their disability-related barriers).
- ▶ **It creates pathways for students with disabilities to achieve their full potential**, leading to higher retention, graduation, and employment rates.

[Ohio State University, 2018](#)



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

Student Affairs
Center for Educational Access

Main Office

Arkansas Union, Room 209

479.575.3104

Fax: 479.575.7445

Email: ada@uark.edu

Test Center

Stadium Parking Garage, Room 305

479.575.2695

Fax: 479.575.7795

Email: ceatest@uark.edu

Website: <http://cea.uark.edu>

Specific COVID-19 information and updates on
accommodations, operations and procedures