

THE OFFICE OF ACCESSIBILITY

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

JESSICA DEFAGO, M.A.

The staff in the Office of Accessibility extends a sincere welcome to the Spring 2022 semester to you, our students. With the start of Spring 2022 semester we are all feeling the cold weather of Ohio. However, I am glad to have the campus beaming with your warm presence!! The Team in the Office of Accessibility encourages our students to request accommodations early and tap into campus resources for support! Have a support network in place, early in the semester, and a plan for tackling challenges. Consider the following principles and practice to implement in your semester plan.

1. Active Involvement & Engagement

- Treat class like a job and be there on all days you're expected to be there
- Get involved in class and come prepared
- Read study, and plan actively

2. Capitalize on Campus Resources

- Counseling and Testing Center
- Tutoring Services
- Career Center
- Zip Assist
- Student Programming
- Read through the Code of Student Conduct

3. Interpersonal Interaction & Collaboration

- Connect with your course instructors and other faculty members frequently!
- Engage with peers by join student clubs.
- Meet with Academic Advisors and other Campus Departments
- Find a mentor or be a mentor!

4. Reflection & Self-Awareness

- Reflection and step back from what you're learning, review it, and connect it to what you already know.
- Maintain self-awareness of how your learning and if you're using effective strategies. If you identify things which are holding you back find ways to eliminate those distractions.
- Complete self-assessments on a regular basis! Reflect on your personal interests, talents, learning styles, and learning habits.

We look forward to working with you throughout the Spring 2022 semester. Welcome back ZIPS!!

Sincerely,

The Office of Accessibility Team

NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR ANNOUNCED FOR OFFICE OF ACCESSIBILITY

The Office of Accessibility is excited to announce that a new Associate Director of Accessibility has been selected. Tess Miller, M.Ed., CRC, previously a Disability Specialist in the Office of Accessibility, has been promoted to the position of Associate Director as of Monday, November 8th, 2021. Tess has been with the Office of Accessibility at The University of Akron since the spring of 2018, when she became a Disability Specialist & Service Coordinator. Her time at UA, however, has not been her only experience in disability services in higher education, as she also spent time at Kent State University and The Ohio State University. As a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, Tess is considered to be formally and classically trained for the work she does every day in the Office of Accessibility, and it shows through the care and attention she gives to her students and areas of coordination. Tess looks forward to continuing to serve students here at UA, and is excited for the new opportunities within the Office of Accessibility.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ON HANDSHAKE

Are you seeking internship, co-op, or job opportunities? Check out The University of Akron's networking and job board: [Handshake](#).

For assistance with applying including a resume review, cover letter review, mock interview and more, students can contact Career Services at 330.972.7747 or career@uakron.edu.

TUTORING OPPORTUNITIES

Tutoring opportunities are available through the Office of Academic and Retention Support (OARS) for General Education classes as well as Math, Science, Engineering, and Medical geared courses. Please call (330) 972-7760 or email STEM@uakron.edu. You can also ask your Disability Specialist for a current tutoring schedule or for more information.



EVENTS WITHIN THE OFFICE OF ACCESSIBILITY

Ice cream social

Have you met your Disability Specialist? Are you familiar with the Office of Accessibility staff? Come visit us December 1st from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Simmons Hall Second Floor Lounge (follow the signs) for an ice cream social! We will be serving ice cream and toppings to students registered in our office. We look forward to seeing you there!

Tabling Event

Don't let the cold weather get you down! Drop by the student union second floor lounge on December 3rd from 1:00-3:00 to pick up a complimentary hot chocolate packet (while supplies last) to keep you warm this winter season. Come learn more about the Office of Accessibility and meet some of our friendly staff members.

COLLEGE2CAREERS

What is Ohio College2Careers?

OOD is the state agency that helps individuals with disabilities obtain, and retain employment and provide career development services. OOD serves individuals with physical, intellectual, sensory, and mental health disabilities. This new partnership is between Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, Ohio's state college and university system, including The University of Akron, and Ohio businesses. This new partnership includes a C2C counselor located at 15 universities statewide.

What a C2C Counselor can provide to eligible UA students:

- Provide additional supports for UA students with disabilities who are eligible for OOD services.
- Career exploration & career counseling
- Assistance navigating Ohio Means Jobs resources
- Assistive technology
- Internships & employment resources
- Connection to an expansive employer partner network

Contact UA's C2C counselor, Mara Byers, at:
Email: Mara.Byers@ood.ohio.gov
Phone: 330-972-2163



IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO BEGIN SCHEDULING YOUR FINAL EXAMS

It is not too early to start submitting test requests in STARS and planning for your final exams! All test requests for final exams should be submitted in STARS **at least 1 full week in advance**. Availability for testing spaces, readers, writers, etc. cannot be guaranteed for late test requests. Now is the time to start finding out the answers to your questions regarding your final exams.

If you have any questions or need help setting up your testing plan for finals, please reach out to your disability specialist for assistance.



QUESTIONS

1- A B C D

2- A B C D

3- A B C D

4- A B C D

5- A B C D

6- A B C D

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Need to get in touch with your Disability Specialist or an OA staff member? Please see their contact information below!
Not sure who your Disability Specialist is? Check in STARS for your Primary Advisor, or give us a call at 330-972-7928.

Jessica Director

DeFago jld4@uakron.edu

Tess Miller Disability Specialist
tmiller1@uakron.edu

Ashley Haas Disability Specialist
ahaas@uakron.edu

Heather Rose Disability Specialist
hrose@uakron.edu

Leigh Sveda Adaptive Technology & Service Coordinator
lab10@uakron.edu

Natalie Martin Office Manager & Testing Coordinator
nab87@uakron.edu

Rachael Kosar Captioning & Service Coordinator
rkk11@uakron.edu

Office Information Front Desk: 330-972-7928
Office Email: access@uakron.edu

SUGGESTION BOX

What would you like see in future issues of the Office of Accessibility Newsletter? Send your ideas to rkk11@uakron.edu.



OFFICE INFO

Office of Accessibility
Simmons Hall 105
The University of Akron
Akron, Ohio 44325-6213

Hours:
Fall/Spring: M-F 8AM-5PM
Summer: M-F 8AM-4:30PM

Phone: 330-972-7928
E-mail: access@uakron.edu

AFTER HOURS PHONE SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Students who desire emergency counseling support in the evening and on weekends may now call the **Counseling and Testing Center at 330-972-7082** to speak with an on-call counselor.

Call 330-972-7082 and choose option 2 for immediate assistance.

CRISIS AND SUICIDE HOTLINE

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:
call 1-800-273-8255 (TALK)

Crisis Text Line: text "HOME" to 741741

Portage Path Crisis Hotline: call 330-762-6110

Walk-ins available at:
10 Penfield Avenue
Akron, Ohio 44310

<https://www.portagepath.org/our-services/emergency-services/>