



The Office of Accessibility Newsletter

Are YOU in it to win it?

Hello everyone,

As the semester starts to wind down, it is a good time for me to touch base with you. I hope your classes are going well as you finish up last minute assignments and prepare for the end of the Fall 2015 semester. The Office of Accessibility has witnessed an increased number of students accessing accommodations this semester. Please take time to look at the articles contained in this newsletter. It is our hope that the information is helpful in preparing you for the remaining semester, and setting your course for Spring 2016.

We at The Office of Accessibility are here to assist you in your academic needs as you get ready for your Fall 2015 final exams. As a reminder, there are multiple locations on campus for tutoring. Remember: good students get tutored! It is a great way to reinforce your knowledge as you prepare for your finals.

If you haven't signed up for your Spring 2016 semester classes, please check your My-Akron for your enrollment date. If you need to meet with your academic advisor, you will need to schedule that appointment ASAP.

The staff in The Office of Accessibility wishes you the best as you prepare for final exams. Please enjoy your Thanksgiving break and be prepared to come back relaxed, refreshed, and be "in it to win it!".

Kelly Kulick, Director
The Office of Accessibility

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Prepare for Finals Week

Here are 6 tips to help you prepare for finals week:

- 1. Verify the details**—Know your exam schedule in advance. To view your exam schedule:
 - ◆ Log in to My Akron
 - ◆ Click on Student Center
 - ◆ In the Academics section, select Exam Schedule from the drop down list and click the forward button. If it is available, it will be displayed. Confirm this schedule with your instructor.
- 2. Get some sleep**—Do not pull an all nighter. Make sure you get a lot of rest while studying and a good night's sleep the night before an exam.
- 3. Stay active**—Exercise boosts blood flow to the brain, and sitting in one place for an extended period of time can lead to a tired, ill-supplied mind.
- 4. Eat well**—Eat foods that are digested slowly: whole grains, fresh vegetables, and lean proteins. A little planning can go a long way as you head into finals week. Before a final, be sure to eat a meal that is high in protein.
- 5. Experiment with different methods of studying**—One way of studying may not be efficient to retain so much information. Try switching subjects to study, study in groups, do practice exercises, study your notes, etc. Switch it up.
- 6. Silence your social media accounts**—although studying for hours on end isn't helpful, neither is checking Facebook, Twitter, and other social media sites in the midst of studying.



Disabilities Awareness Week 2015

November 2nd—6th was our annual Disabilities Awareness Week celebration, and it was an amazing success! We had a record number of participants, and appreciate all of your support as we promoted campus-wide access and awareness for students with disabilities.

Monday- Photo Booth With Zippy

The Photo booth was an open booth, where students, faculty, and staff could come get their pictures taken with various props, and Disabilities Awareness Quotes. Local celebrities, Zippy Roo, Coach Bowden, and Coach came through in support of Disabilities Awareness Week. Anyone who participated went home with a 4 picture photo strip that read “Disabilities Awareness Week” at the bottom. Also, at this event there was a “wall of celebrities with disabilities” – There were different posters displayed with information about celebrities that have disabilities and how they manage them.

Tuesday- “Life Hacks” – Apps and Gadgets to Make College Easier

During this event, there was “I Stand For Access For All” Bracelet giveaways, pens, and office information. The goal of this event was to bridge the gap between students with and without disabilities. We brought 2 iPads with us where students could try different free apps to help make college life easier, not only was there an app to help students with disabilities, but for all students, to support an inclusive environment. The different apps that we featured were, NotesPlus (an app to help organize notes), Penultimate (assists with handwritten notes), iStudiez (organizes schedules, acts as a planner), Diigo (social bookmarking), GFlash (online flash cards), Outline Creator (makes outlines for assignments).

Wednesday – Audio Descriptive Movie – “How to Train Your Dragon”

During this event, students could come and experience watching a movie like a person with a hearing or visual impairment would. Students could choose between blindfolds or ear plugs, or switch and use both. If ear plugs were chosen, subtitles were given at the bottom of the screen. If blindfolds were chosen, not only was there audio, but audio description. Every scene and visual was described by a narrator, giving students and people who are visually impaired the “whole picture”.

Thursday – Destress with Dogs – WagTime Therapy Dogs

This event was the biggest hit of the week! The OA saw 625 people participate, which was our most participated event during Disabilities Awareness Week, ever! Wag-Time Therapy Dogs are a group of therapy dogs that see patients at Akron City Hospital. They undergo intense training to become therapy dogs. Students could come through, and “destress” by petting, snuggling, and loving on the pups.



Friday – Volleyball game with Hattie Larlham

Hattie Larlham provides medical, residential, recreational and work training services to 1,500 Northeast Ohio children and adults with developmental disabilities. The organization provides residential care at the Hattie Larlham Center for Children with Disabilities and in community-based homes. Hattie Larlham work training programs including Hattie’s Café & Gifts, Hattie’s Doggie Day Care & Boarding and Hattie’s Gardens employ adults with developmental disabilities. On Friday, the OA’s goal was community engagement and outreach! 8 clients and 10 caregivers came to the University of Akron to attend the women’s volleyball game versus Miami of Ohio. The ladies from the OA and people from Hattie all sat together to engage in conversation, and watch some volleyball!

We hope you were able to attend one or some of these events!

If you have any ideas for future Disabilities Awareness Week events, please contact our office; we would love to have more student involvement.

Testing in the Computer Based Assessment and Evaluation Center

In an effort to continue to make our testing processes more efficient and student friendly, the Office of Accessibility has been working with Computer Based Assessment and Evaluation Center (CBA&E).

Beginning immediately, students who have requested a proctor (reader and/or scribe) and have requested the distraction reduced space in Computer Based Assessment and Evaluation, should **report to Schrank Hall North 153** on the day of the exam. You will meet the proctor from the Office of Accessibility in that office, and then will be escorted into the testing room.

As a reminder, students who wish to utilize testing accommodations at CBA&E need to:

1. Call CBA&E at 330-972-6511 x3 to reserve the distraction-reduced testing room.
2. If a reader or scribe is required, request testing accommodations in STARS as well. You must select the time extension (OA) when you submit the request. Please make a note that the exam will take place in CBA&E in the Additional Comments section of the Alternative Testing request form in STARS.

For students who do not require a proctor, please report to the testing center as normal. Please contact your disability specialist with any questions.

Important Dates

Dec 13, 2015
Final Instructional Day for Fall 2015 classes

Dec 14-20, 2015
Finals Week

Dec 18-19, 2015
Fall 2015 Commencement

**Dec 24–
Jan 1, 2016**
OA close

Jan 19, 2016
Spring 2016 classes begin

Important Reminders

STARS Updates:

- ◆ You are now able to log into STARS using your University of Akron username and password. You will be directed to the MyAkron logon page from STARS. Once you log in, you should see your dashboard. After you are finished in STARS, it is imperative you logout and close your browser. If you have any problems accessing STARS, please contact our office at access@uakron.edu or (330)972-7928.

Requesting accommodations:

- ◆ Once you have finalized your class schedule for the spring, make sure to also request your accommodations on STARS.
 1. Log into STARS
 2. Scroll down to “Select Accommodations for Your Class”
 3. Select classes you are requesting accommodations and click “Step 2-Continue to Customize your Accommodations”
 4. Select the accommodations you would like to request for each class and the checkbox to email the accommodation letter to your instructor
 5. Select “Submit your Accommodation Request”
- ◆ Transcribers/CART or interpreter accommodation requests should be submitted at least **six weeks prior** to the beginning of the semester.
- ◆ If you are requesting notetakers, please remember to only request the notetaking accommodation for classes in which you will need notetakers. This does not include classes like labs, recitations, gym classes, or online classes. If you have any questions about which classes to request notetakers, please contact your Disability Specialist.

Testing in the Office of Accessibility and Counseling Center:

- ◆ If you have an alternative testing accommodation, please remember to schedule your test at least **4 business days** prior to the day you would like to take the test. Tests can be scheduled through the STARS website, <https://andes.accessiblelearning.com/Akron/> under the Alternative Testing tab. Bring your Student ID with you for each test. Remember to schedule early due to the high volume of testing requests during finals week!

Scholarship Opportunities for Students with Disabilities



UA offers thousands of scholarships and awards -- more than \$22 million each year in scholarship aid. With the largest endowment of any public university in northern Ohio, UA is able to give many talented students the chance to study. Awards range from hundreds of dollars to complete, full-ride academic scholarships.

Endowed scholarships are funded by external donors and are awarded to students who meet criteria established by the donors. These criteria may include demonstrated history of leadership, community service, financial need and/or other personal factors.

Some scholarships exist that are specific to students with disabilities. The Office of Student Financial Aid cannot ask a student if they have a disability, however, if willing to disclose on the application, you may be considered an award from the Office of Student Financial Aid. Examples of some scholarships that are available for students with disabilities are: the Beasley, the Chenot, the Darsky, the Lampasone, and the Levinson Scholarships.

To apply for Scholarships, please follow the links below and follow the directions on the application form. You may also stop in The Office of Accessibility to receive a hard copy of the application.

- ◆ New Freshman Scholarship Application: <http://www.uakron.edu/dotAsset/95a1a36d-4fe4-44fa-b444-9cd860d26e75.pdf>
- ◆ Continuing Student Scholarship Application: <http://www.uakron.edu/dotAsset/d79cd8a2-74c7-4311-9943-920736fe6c7a.pdf>

You may also contact your college/academic department for additional scholarship opportunities.

For any additional questions or concerns, please contact your Disability Specialist, or contact The Office of Student Financial Aid at (330) 972-6343 or at www.uakron.edu/finaid.

Suggestion Box

We want your feedback!

Email ooaga1@uakron.edu with comments about the current newsletter or ideas you would like to see in future newsletters.

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Fall & Spring Office Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday: 8 a.m.-7 p.m.



Simmons Hall at The University of Akron