



Annual Report 2022–2023

Disability Support Services

The services provided by the Office of Disability Support Services are essential to providing students with disabilities equal access at Fredonia.





Overview

Mission

The Mission of Disability Support Services (DSS) is to work with students, faculty and staff to coordinate services essential to providing students with disabilities equal access and opportunity at the State University of New York at Fredonia, through advocacy, support and education. DSS works to ensure that no otherwise qualified student with a disability shall solely by reason of their disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination at Fredonia.

Vision

The Vision of DSS is to have intentional interactions with students with disabilities, in an effort to foster persistence, engagement, academic excellence, and increased student retention.

Values

- Focus on the needs of students with disabilities
- Respect the voices, lived experiences and complex intersectional identities of the students served
- Strive to utilize and facilitate high quality and effective processes, procedures and services to promote equity and inclusion

During the 2022-2023 academic year, there were **434 active undergraduate and graduate students** who self-identified with the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS). This represents, to-date, the largest number of active students with disabilities in the history of the program. This number is **12% of the Fredonia population**.

110 of these students requested **non-academic accommodations** for certain items such as housing and dining services. Over the course of the academic year, DSS received a total of **335** requests for **academic accommodations** (i.e. testing accommodations, note-taking software, accessible print materials etc.).

With the increase in the number of students self-identifying with the office, there has also been an increase in students with specific disabilities. In particular, the requests for emotional support animals (**25**) and medical single rooms (**53**) are on the rise, due to the rise in mental health diagnosis.



Overview of Disability Support Services



Breakdown of Primary Disability per Year

Primary Disability	AY 18-19	AY 19-20	AY 20-21	AY 21-22	AY 22-23
ADD/ADHD	47	50	53	68	90
Autism	15	14	19	22	25
Basic Chronic Medical Cond.*	-	-	63	61	67
Communication/Speech	6	18	15	10	10
Complex Chronic Medical Cond.*	-	-	3	5	14
Deaf/Hearing Impairment	4	5	6	6	3
Learning Disability	73	68	60	52	44
Mental Health	104	110	136	120	138
Other Disabilities*	60	71	18	12	10
Orthopedic	9	9	7	1	1
Temporary/Provisional	15	9	11	16	25
Traumatic Brain Injury	3	2	3	4	4
Visual Impairment/Blind	9	6	3	3	2
Total	345	362	397	373	434

Throughout the 2022-2023 academic year, DSS proctored a total of **972 exams** (482 in Fall and 490 in Spring) administered with academic accommodations such as extended time, a reduced distraction environment, exam readers and computers for typing responses.

Not all students who have exam accommodations utilize the DSS testing room for every test or every class. Depending on the mode of exam (online vs. in class), the layout of the exam (multiple choice vs. essay) or even the discipline of the exam (i.e. Math vs. History), a student may choose to take the exam in the classroom, as is their prerogative.



Exam Administration



Exam Administration per Year

Exams During Semester	Total Exams	Total Students	Total Professors	Total Classes
FALL 2021	320	79	60	73
SPRING 2022	328	72	67	75
FALL 2022	366	92	64	89
SPRING 2023	373	82	63	80



Final Exam Administration per Year

Final Exams	Total Exams
Fall 2021	90
Spring 2022	96
Fall 2022	116
Spring 2023	117



List of Achievements

Disability Support Services

1. Provided support to the largest student population to-date, in the DSS office.
2. Worked in MARQ to develop a handout for faculty, regarding students with disabilities.
3. Collaborated with Marketing and Communications to develop an infographic showing the difference between service animals and emotional support animals.

The DSS office is constantly assessing policies and procedures, based on relevant laws and guidance from the Office of Civil Rights (OCR). To this end, DSS will be evaluating services based on the AHEAD (Association on Higher Education and Disability) organization standards.

Planning for Assessment in Academic Year 23-24: The office will informally assess the program by sending out a Google form to DSS students in the Spring semester, after midterm exams. This will assess where improvement may be made as well as giving direction to our goals for the next academic year.



Assessment

Disability Support Services



Tactic for Strategic Plan

Disability Support Services

Goal #3: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility and Belonging

3. Prioritize equity and accessibility in all systems, practices, etc.

Tactic for Strategic Plan Goal #3.3:

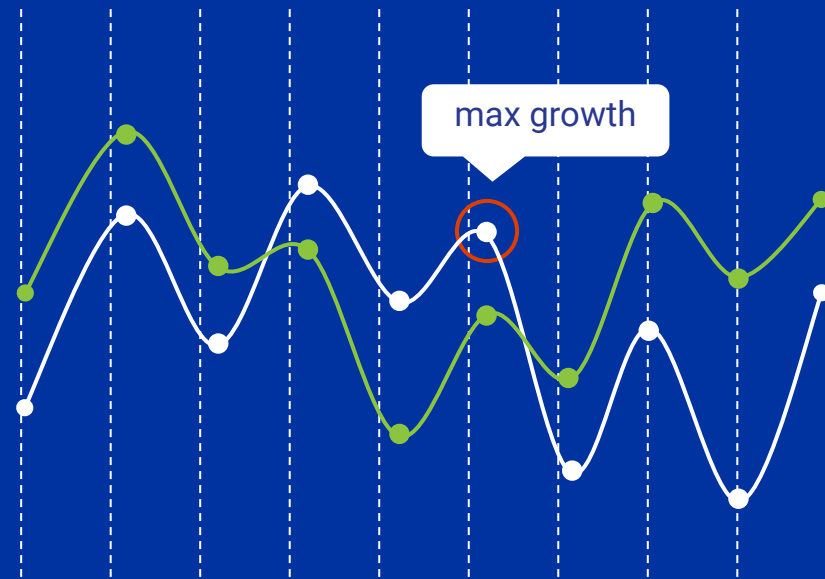
DSS is looking to form a DSS Advisory Board, to include members from Fredonia faculty, staff and residence life. The role of the board will be to measure the impact and effectiveness of certain processes, such as the Emotional Support Animal process, as well as the effectiveness of the DSS portion of the Fredonia website. The Board will also vet all Emotional Support Animal applications.



Impact/Results

During the 22-23 Academic Year, DSS had a first-year retention rate of 93%. Out of the 88 students who started in Fall 22 and self-identified with DSS, 82 are still “active.”

In terms of the last 5 years, from Fall 2018 – Spring 2023, DSS has a persistence rate of 71%. This includes a 14% Undergraduate degree rate, 3% Graduate degree rate and 54% “active” rate.





Disability Support Services

Jennifer Ruhland - Coordinator

716-673-3270

disability.services@fredonia.edu

fredonia.edu

