



Disability Resources for Students

UW Standard of Excellence

The University is strongly committed to ensuring that students with disabilities are fully included and able to participate in the wide variety of educational opportunities that await all students in our campus community. Disability Resources for Students (DRS) works closely and collaboratively with our students, faculty and staff to promote, provide, facilitate and create equal access at all levels of the academic enterprise while maintaining the highest standards of academic excellence. DRS supports students with disabilities with the highest quality of services and accommodations to position them for success in the pursuit of their academic goals.

Academic Community

DRS strives to create and maintain close working relationships with members of the academic community in order to be the most valuable resource we can be to the UW's faculty and staff. We offer workshops, presentations at departmental meetings, or one-on-one consultations to increase awareness of disability issues on campus and provide strategies for developing curriculums, programs, activities, policies, procedures and physical spaces that are inclusive of the needs of students with disabilities.

World Leaders in Research

The UW offers an array of research opportunities in its acclaimed research facilities. DRS collaborates with students, faculty and staff to ensure equal participation in these research opportunities. The presence of students with disabilities in the research taking place on campus has and will continue to enrich the process of

the research as well as help generate ideas for research in the field of disability and disability access. Additionally, for the last several years, DRS has been proud to be a partner with the nationally award-winning DO-IT Program in several research activities designed to increase the success of people with disabilities in the K-12 school system, post-secondary educational system and in careers.

Celebrating Place

While the University campus is exceptionally beautiful with its lush green trees, rolling hills and beautiful old buildings whose rich architecture and design leaves first-time visitors in awe, these features of the campus prove to be difficult if not impossible barriers for many students with disabilities. Several departments on campus have worked with DRS to put services in place to address these issues. For example, Property and Transport Services offers Dial-A-Ride, a free campus shuttle service for students, faculty and staff with mobility-related disabilities. The Office of the Registrar works with DRS and the student to relocate classrooms when there is an accessibility issue. Facilities Services, in collaboration with other departments, including DRS, produces an annual Access Guide for Persons with Disabilities and a Campus Mobility Route Map. Whether the disability is mobility-related or something entirely different, DRS works with the campus community to create a place that is welcoming, supportive and accessible for our students with disabilities.

Spirit of Innovation

Staying current on the new technologies available to create improved access for students with disabilities is at the heart of

our work. We acknowledge, appreciate and utilize the expertise available on our own campus such as our Access Technology Lab with state-of-the-art computer adaptive technology. DRS staff members stay active in professional organizations on both the local and national levels to learn of new developments in the field and share their own innovations.

World Citizens

The full and equal participation of students with disabilities in the academic community serves to broaden the educational experience of all students, making them better equipped to embrace disability as a part of the human diversity that exists throughout the world. By connecting with faculty, staff and professionals in the community at work-based learning sites DRS facilitates the participation of students with disabilities in practicum placements, internships and field work sites. The inclusion of students with disabilities in these professional settings serves to expose the community at large to the talents, skills and abilities of our students with disabilities. Through these means they themselves learn how to work more effectively with people who have disabilities.

Being Public

DRS serves as a resource to the campus community, local and national communities, and even international communities, on disability and matters pertaining to disability. We take pride in being a leader in our profession and freely share our resources and expertise with prospective students, parents, K-12 teachers and administrators, our state and national colleagues, and members of the general public.