Fostering Academic Independence for Students with Disabilities

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CENTER FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Session Overview

- Introductions
- Students with Disabilities – Accessing Services in High School
- Students with Disabilities – Accessing Services in Postsecondary Ed.
  - How does this work at UW-Whitewater?
- Workshopping Challenges
  - General Trends in Disability Services and Student Populations
  - CSD Challenges
  - Instructor Challenges
  - How can we better work together?

Differences between High School and Postsecondary Ed.

K-12 System:

- Students covered under IDEA and Section 504
- Students referred and receive IEP or 504 plan
- Group meeting with staff, parents, and sometimes students to determine plan
- Accommodations *and* modifications to curriculum possible depending on student needs
- All instructors aware of student's disability and needs and provide services automatically

Postsecondary Education

- Students covered under ADA and Section 504
- Students must self-identify with and provide documentation to disability services to create an accommodation plan
- Students only eligible for accommodations (equal access), not modifications
- Students must initiate request for services each semester (e.g. general accommodations, alternative testing, alternative media)
- Students work with instructors to facilitate accommodation plan as needed
  - Student disability information remains confidential unless student shares directly

UW-W Center for Students with Disabilities

Tier 1-Mandated Services

- ASL interpretation and captioning
- Alternative Media
- Alternative Testing
- Classroom Accommodations
- In-Class Aides
- Other accommodations as eligible

Tier 2- Success Services

- Assistive Technology
- Fall Orientation Program
- Training on how to utilize services
- Ongoing Case Management
- Employment Connections

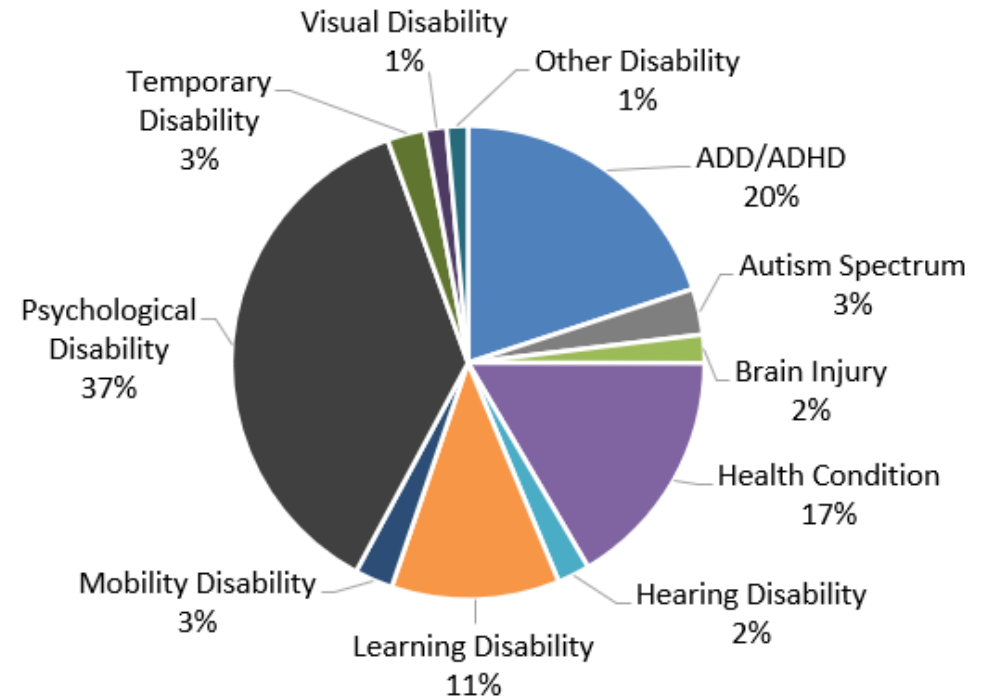## Tier 3 – Fee-Based Success Services

- Summer Transition Program
- Project ASSIST
- Adaptive Transportation
- Out-of-Class Aides

Self-Disclosure

- Students are not required to request accommodations

- If a student has been approved for services, they need to inform their instructors if they want to use those services (ARP and follow-up)

- If a student chooses not to disclose approved accommodations, the instructor is not obligated to provide accommodations

- Students are not required to disclose personal information about their diagnosis/es, disability/ies, or any medical documentation
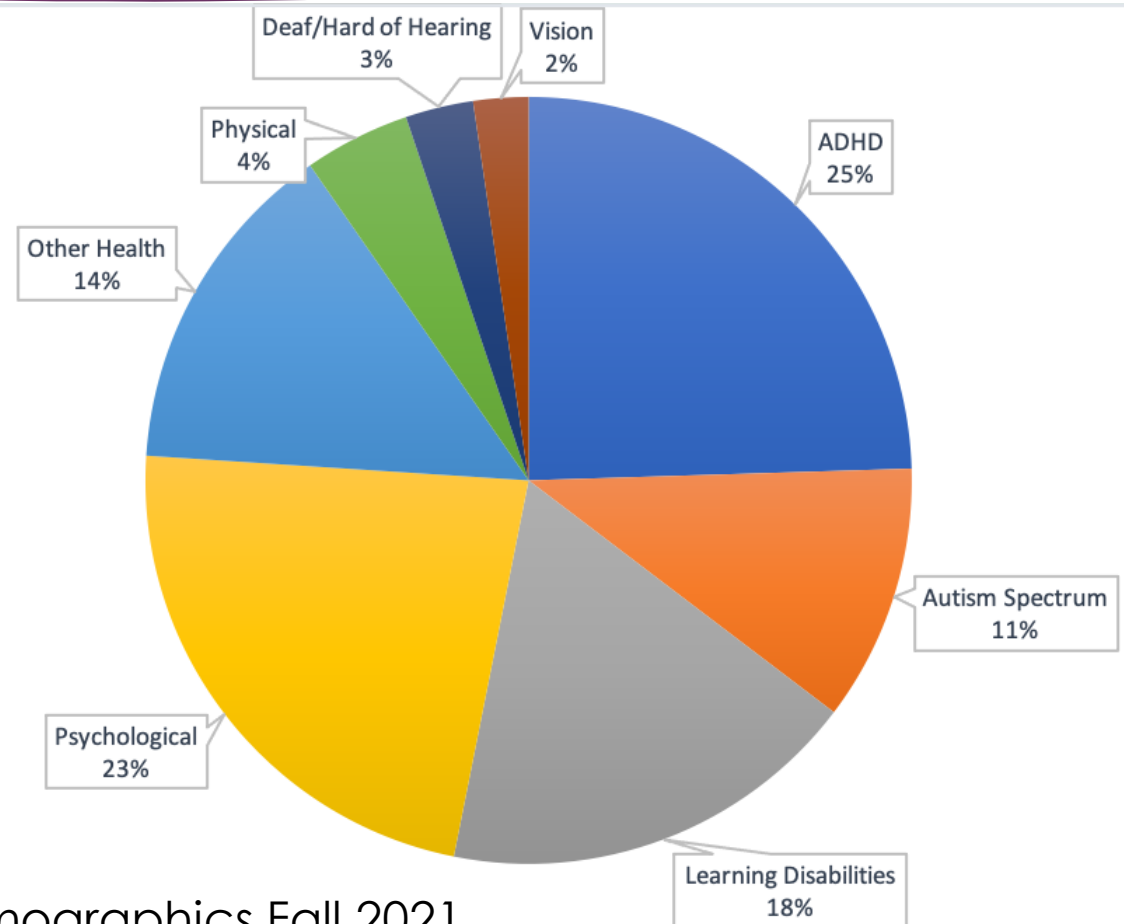
General Trends

- UW-System: 31% growth over past 5 years in self-identified students with disabilities

- Increasing Populations of Students
  - Mental Health/Psychological (in general and affiliated with CSD)
  - Chronic Health Conditions
  - Autism Spectrum

Percentage of Students by Disability, 2020-2021 (UW System)

General Trends – UW-Whitewater

- Over 10% of students receive services through CSD

- Over 12% of students using CSD services identify as URM

- Fall 2021
  - 859 Tests scheduled
  - 2,540 accommodation requests
  - 47 classes needing ASL or in-class captioning

CSD Demographics Fall 2021

- ADHD 25%
- Autism Spectrum 11%
- Learning Disabilities 18%
- Psychological 23%
- Other Health 14%
- Physical 4%
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing 3%
- Vision 2%

CSD Challenges

- Increase in behavioral issues among students

- Staff changes

- Difficulty finding student employees

  - Directly impacted tutoring, in-class-aiding, driving, front desk operations

- Intersectional identities and disability services

- Getting students to utilize their resources

- Increased case management needs (COVID, college readiness, chronic health and psychological crises)

Classroom Challenges

What challenges have you as instructors and/or academic staff experienced in working with students with disabilities?

Problem Solving

How can we better work together to address these challenges?

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