

ACCESSIBILITY IN ACTION

Accessibility Resource Center

WELCOMING NOTES!

I hope you had a chance to read the first edition last month. Please reach out to me if there are topics you would like to see added. Consider this newsletter as a mixtape - some topics belong together and some topics pop out of nowhere, but all tied together, will hopefully leave you with a sense of fulfillment. Mixtapes were the best. They were put together with time, determination, and care, much like the things we give to our students every day. The mission of the Accessibility Resource Center is to recognize disability as a valued aspect of diversity and to foster an inclusive environment for all of the Thiel College community through awareness, accessibility, and empowerment. The office is committed not only to **ensuring access**, but also to **supporting success**.

DISABILITY HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Temporary Accommodations

I recently wrote a new policy regarding temporary accommodations. This is important since 55% of our student population are athletes. We must support all of our students and be proactive when situations arise and call for our attention. It is important that temporary accommodation policies are followed since our goal is to minimize class absences. Temporary academic accommodations may be available to students with short-term impairments that impact their ability to participate in their education.

Temporary conditions and injuries, such as acute illnesses and surgeries, do not automatically qualify for accommodations. These conditions are considered on a case-by-case basis. It should be noted there is a separate policy for students who have been diagnosed with a concussion (we will cover this in another edition). As soon as the student knows they need surgery, it is imperative that they contact the ARC to make a plan. The student should also understand the attendance policy in each of their classes.

If you have any questions regarding this new policy, please contact Dr. Carlson or me.



UPCOMING EVENTS

First Year Transition Meetings Feb. 19

Career Expo Feb. 25

Academic Honors Convocation Feb. 27

Temporary Accommodations, continued

It is the student's responsibility to contact their professors, advisor, Dr. Kristin Carlson, Associate Dean for Student Success and Erin Bain, Coordinator of the Accessibility Resource Center, immediately if their injury/temporary condition impacts their attendance. Faculty are encouraged to work with students when reasonable.

If absences are expected to exceed two weeks or attendance cannot be accommodated due to the nature of the class (i.e. discussion-based, laboratory assignments etc.), the student must speak with their academic advisor to discuss potential options.

The advisor and student will then consult with the Accessibility Resource Center and the Associate Dean for Student Success to discuss class options and the need for accommodations. Athletics and Academic Affairs will work together to support the student's academic progress.

Examples of temporary accommodations may include preferred seating, allow for breaks as needed, allow to be slightly late to class, scribe for tests, extended test time, use of note taking software (Jamworks), short deadline extension for assignments, class relocation, parking pass, and housing accommodations.



“In life, there are choices and consequences to every behavior.”

-Lynne Powell



TOP READS OF THE MONTH

**Demystifying Disability* by Emily Ladau

**Disability in Higher Education* by Evans, Broido, et al.

**Faculty Resource Center, Moodle, ARC Resources*

IMPORTANT NEWS

World Cancer Day is celebrated every February 4th to promote prevention, detection, and care for those affected by cancer. This day also highlights the importance of equitable access to treatment options.

If you do not know someone impacted by cancer, consider yourself blessed.

Also consider this as a PSA. Please take care of yourself. Schedule those yearly exams. You are important! Early detection is key, so take time for you.

Use this as a time to encourage your family and friends to get their yearly checkups as well.

Contact the Accessibility Resource Center at EBain@thiel.edu