



## **Student Disability Services Annual Report**

2022-2023 Academic Year (AY)

*The Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services (VPESSE) serves as the Student Disability Services (SDS) Coordinator who facilitates MBKU's efforts to comply with and carry out its student disability accommodations responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), including investigations of complaints. The Director for University Student Affairs serves as the Assistant Coordinator, providing additional support with student requests. The Vice President for Human Resources serves as the MBKU ADA/504 Coordinator with ultimate oversight responsibility, including remedying campus access issues and ADA complaints appeals processes.*

### **Overview of Services**

MBKU is committed to full and equal opportunities for all students and applicants. MBKU does not unlawfully discriminate against qualified applicants or students with disabilities and encourages their full participation within the community. To this end, MBKU accepts<sup>1</sup> and supports qualified students and applicants with disabilities and complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and state and local regulations regarding students and applicants with disabilities<sup>2</sup>.

MBKU provides reasonable accommodations to otherwise qualified applicants and students with known physical or mental disabilities, unless it would create an undue hardship or fundamentally alter the nature of the academic program, service, or activity. Applicants or students needing accommodation must make their needs known in advance. MBKU cannot provide an accommodation if it does not know that an accommodation is required.

Applicants or students with disabilities or access issues may request accommodation at any time. However, because MBKU must have time to review and approve the request before making accommodations, and because some accommodations take more time to provide, applicants or students with disabilities should contact MBKU and request an accommodation as soon as possible.<sup>3</sup>

For additional inquiries, please contact:

Carmen Barnhardt, OD, MS Ed  
SDS Coordinator  
Vice President for Enrollment & Student Services  
[cbarnhardt@ketchum.edu](mailto:cbarnhardt@ketchum.edu) | 714.449.7423

Ashley White, MA, MS  
SDS Assistant Coordinator  
Director for University Student Affairs  
[awhite@ketchum.edu](mailto:awhite@ketchum.edu) | 714.449.7414

Wende Holtzen, MS, SPHR, SHRM-SCP  
MBKU ADA/504 Coordinator  
Vice President for Human Resources  
[wholtzen@ketchum.edu](mailto:wholtzen@ketchum.edu) | 714.449.7459

<sup>1</sup> Applicants or students must be able to meet the minimum standards of MBKU and the program, service, or activity with or without a reasonable accommodation.

<sup>2</sup> Disabilities include any physical or mental impairment(s) that limit one or more major life activities, or a record of such limiting impairment.

<sup>3</sup> The "Accommodating Students & Applicants with Disabilities" policy is in the University Student Handbook. Relevant forms and other materials are located on the Students tab of My.Ketchum.Edu. These documents may also be accessed by contacting the SDS Coordinator.

## Educational Initiatives

Through education and training initiatives, the Student Disability Services Coordinator provided the University community with information, tools, and resources to promote policy/process awareness and encourage supportive and inclusive interactions with students with disabilities. We delivered targeted programming to specific, relevant groups including first-year students and their Peer Advisors, Peer Tutors, new employees, MBKU faculty, and clinical preceptors.

We maintain a variety of online resources: the Faculty Compliance Moodle page for employees and the Student Achievement Center Moodle course and “Students” tab of My.Ketchum.Edu for all current students. These pages host video presentations, quizzes, and several additional resources and information for assisting students in distress, the ADA, MBKU Student Disability Services and accommodation processes. We also make available an ADA/Disability Services brochure for high-trafficked areas of campus.

## SDS Statistics for 2022-2023 AY

In keeping with national best practices for higher education institutions, the MBKU SDS Coordinator shall publish a report on relevant statistics annually each fall, for the prior academic year, without disclosing any specific student information. All numbers reported are for the 2022-2023 AY, unless specifically stated.

Newly registered students in Disability Services. <sup>4</sup>	31
Students requesting new or updated accommodations and services. <sup>5</sup>	33
New individual, specific approved accommodations. <sup>6</sup>	32
Students receiving multiple accommodations.	12
Students requiring temporary accommodations.	6
Students who disclosed multiple diagnoses.	6
Student disability services accommodations appeals submitted.	0
Student disability services accommodations appeals accepted.	N/A
Total number of students registered with SDS during the 22-23 AY.	76
Percentage of MBKU students registered with SDS during the 22-23 AY.	10.8%*
Non-disability related statistics: Total number of students receiving religious adjustments.	3

\*The percentage of MBKU students registered with SDS during the 21-22 AY was 12.3%.

<sup>4</sup> Note: Not all students registered with SDS request accommodations.

<sup>5</sup> Includes all requests even if accommodations were not actually implemented and both previously and newly registered students with SDS.

<sup>6</sup> If a student receives multiple accommodations, each is counted separately. If a student’s accommodations are changed based on an accepted appeal, only the revised accommodations are counted.

## 22-23 New/Updated SDS Student Disability Types



- Medical Conditions
- Mental Health Conditions
- Learning Disabilities

Mental/Behavioral Health Conditions (e.g., ADHD, Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Major Depressive Disorder, including ongoing treatment) represented 54% of new student disability types, roughly the same as last year. Next were Medical Conditions (e.g., Chronic Migraines, Irritable Bowel Syndrome, Diabetes, Fibromyalgia, medical treatment, including ongoing treatment and pregnancy) at 43%, compared to 29% last year. This increase is likely the result of having several students with temporary physical injuries this year. Lastly, Learning Disabilities (e.g., Dyslexia, Dysgraphia and Specific Learning Disability) accounted for only 3% of newly reported student disability. Please note students may report more than one type of disability.

## 22-23 New/Updated SDS Accommodations Provided by Type



- Testing
- Class
- Lab/Clinical
- Campus Access
- None

Testing accommodations (e.g., testing in a reduced distracted environment, extended time, etc.) were the most common support provided to newly registered or recently updated SDS students.

### Demographic Information

During the 2022-2023 AY, SDS administered an optional demographic survey for registered students. There were 17 students who completed the survey, from all programs and graduation years, representing just under half of registered SDS students.

- Average Age: ~30 (range 23-50)
- 6% Male, 94% Female
- 6% Pansexual, 88% Heterosexual, 6% Prefer Not to Say
- Hispanic/Latinx origin or descent: 6%
- Race: (Select all that apply or self-describe)
  - American Indian or Alaska Native: 0%
  - Asian American: 34%
  - Black or African American: 18%
  - Middle Eastern: 18%
  - White/Caucasian: 24%
  - Multi-Racial: 6%
- 6% Veteran, 94% No Service
- 35% Married, 65% Single
- 12% Parenting

## **Executive Summary**

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), up to 1 in 4 adults in the United States have some type of disability that affects one or more daily life functions.<sup>7</sup> Students with disabilities who go on to become health care providers show increased empathy and understanding when delivering care to patients with disabilities. We believe that by fostering a positive and inclusive environment for students with disabilities, this creates diverse practitioners poised to diminish the health care inequities experienced by patients with disabilities.

For comparison, the Association of American Medical Colleges published a study in 2019 reporting that approximately 1,500 medical students in the U.S. disclosed a disability and received formal accommodations. That is about 2.7% of medical students, and represents a lower percentage than undergraduate programs, in which about 11% of students disclose a disability. The report found that in medicine especially, many students hide their disability out of a fear of judgment, bias, and skewed perception of ability. Our goal is to reduce the fear of judgment and bias at MBKU.

According to the Spring 2023 MBKU Health & Wellness Survey, most student respondents were at least vaguely familiar with SDS. 35 respondents reported that they have a visible or invisible disability, 13 indicated they applied for SDS accommodations and 22 indicated they did not seek accommodations. For those that did, some said the process was too tedious and/or they didn't follow through and therefore did not receive accommodations, or they received accommodations that positively benefitted their MBKU experience. For those that did not apply for accommodations, they report being too embarrassed, concerned about views of peers and/or faculty, and/or that they didn't feel as though their disability was "serious enough to potentially take resources away from others."

Although the number of students registered with MBKU SDS decreased compared to last year, national statistics suggest a growing number of students in higher education accessing support services such as SDS and Student Counseling Services. Based on feedback from the 2023 Health & Wellness Survey, we may need to focus education not only on SDS awareness, but that all students with disabilities should register with SDS and seek potentially support opportunities. Overall, we will continue to recruit, support, and graduate these students with disabilities.

---

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/infographic-disability-impacts-all.html>