



Marshall B. KETCHUM UNIVERSITY

Student Disability Services

Student Disability Services Annual Report

2021-2022 Academic Year (AY)

The Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA) is the Student Disability Services Coordinator with responsibility for coordinating Marshall B. Ketchum University's (MBKU) efforts to comply with and carry out its student disability accommodations responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), including investigations of complaints. The Senior Vice President & Chief of Staff 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 accepts¹ 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 disabilities².

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. MBKU will remove barriers where readily achievable and/or provide alternative measures when removal of barriers is not readily achievable. Applicants or students needing accommodations must make their needs known in advance. MBKU cannot provide an accommodation when it does not know that an accommodation is required.

Applicants or students with disabilities or access issues may request accommodations 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.³

For additional inquiries, please contact:

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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 upperclassmen 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.

Student Disability Services Statistics for AY 2019-2020

In keeping with national best practices for higher education institutions, the MBKU Student Disability Services Coordinator shall publish a report on relevant statistics annually each fall, for the prior academic year, without disclosing any specific student information.

Students newly registered with Disability Services (“registered”) in the 20-21 AY.	19
Registered students requesting new or updated accommodations and services in the 20-21 AY.	16
Registered students approved for new or updated accommodations and services. ⁴	29
New individual, specific accommodations given to all registered students in the 20-21 AY. ⁵	53
Student disability services accommodations appeals submitted.	0
Student disability services accommodations appeals accepted.	N/A
Number of registered students at MBKU in the 20-21 AY.	47
Percentage of students registered at MBKU in the 20-21 AY.	7.2%
Non-disability related statistics: Total number of students receiving religious adjustments in the 2020-2021 AY.	6

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

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

³ The “Accommodating Students & Applicants with Disabilities” policy is located 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 Student Disability Services Coordinator.

⁴ Includes all requests even if accommodations were not actually implemented.

⁵ 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.

Temporary COVID-19 Related Adjustments

In March of 2020, MBKU shifted to online learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In an effort to support our students in their new and unexpected learning environments, Disability Services encouraged students to report any barriers they were experiencing and determined appropriate adjustments. These data represent all new requests or modified adjustments during the 2020-2021 AY for temporary COVID-19 related academic adjustments for students without a documented disability who reported to University Student Affairs.

During the previous AY, MBKU provided 3 students temporary adjustments during the spring term. For the entire 2020-2021 AY, MBKU provided temporary adjustment to 8 students.

Executive Summary

MBKU has made great efforts to improve access to Disability Services. We have approximately 7.2% of our student body registered with Disability Services, up from 6.4% last year. For context, 61 million adults in the United States live with a disability. That represents 1 in 4 or 26% of adults having some type of disability. 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 health care students with disabilities, this will create diverse practitioners poised to diminish the health care inequities experienced by patients with disabilities.

For comparisons, 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.

Disability Services tracks the types of disabilities of students registered. National statistics suggest a growing number of students in higher education reporting mental health concerns. Over half of the students registered with Disability Services disclosed Mental Health Conditions (e.g., ADHD, anxiety, depression, including ongoing treatment). This year we saw an increase in the number of students with anxiety as their primary qualifying condition. This occurred during the campus shut down in the Spring of 2020 as well as during the re-opening the following spring/summer. We must be prepared to support these students through Disability Services and Student Counseling Services. This fact, along with results from our recently administered Health & Wellness survey (see below) are leading us to propose the addition of another part-time counselor to support our students.

In the spring of 2021, University Student Affairs conducted our first Health & Wellness survey. Out of the 150 survey respondents, 4% indicated that they utilized MBKU Disability Services over the past year. Of 150 question participants, 26 indicated they presently have some type of disability. However, only 5 of these 26 students indicated that they registered with Disability Services. This means 80% of survey participants with disabilities are not registering with Disability Services. When these 21 students were asked why they didn't pursue accommodations, they reported they were embarrassed, didn't feel like it was necessary, didn't want people to know, were afraid that it would impact how professors view them and hinder their

opportunities/progression through school, too much work, and feeling like other people need it more than they do.

This was a very interesting year for Disability Services. We saw a slight change in registration across the programs. I believe this was due to the unique learning and testing environments created by the COVID pandemic. Some students were afforded more flexibility, which served them very well. While other students needed to request even minor accommodations from their programs. Some students also struggled with the lack of structure. Fall will be a time of readjustment for many, and Disability Services is ready to support any student in need.