



UNIVERSITY OF
KWAZULU-NATAL™
INYUVESI
YAKWAZULU-NATALI

Disability Support Unit (DSU)



EDGEWOOD CAMPUS



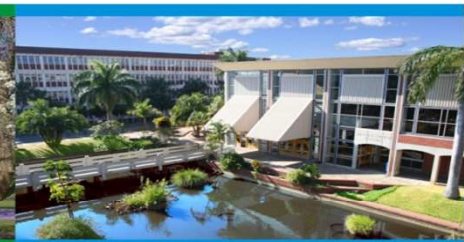
HOWARD COLLEGE CAMPUS



NELSON R MANDELA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



PIETERMARITZBURG CAMPUS



WESTVILLE CAMPUS

INSPIRING GREATNESS

Contact Details for the Disability Support Unit (DSU)

- We are based on the following campuses.
- - **The Westville Campus:**
 - Disability Co-Ordinator: Dr Faaiza Shaikh; 031 2607706; 0829369335, shaikhf@ukzn.ac.za
- - **Pietermaritzburg Campus**
 - Disability Co-Ordinator: Mr Mongezi Zondo; 031 2605065; 0744168487; Zondom@ukzn.ac.za
- - **Howard Campus**
 - Disability Co-Ordinator: Mr Nevil Balakrishna; 031 2603140; 0732553737;
Balakrishna@ukzn.ac.za
 - Disability Support Officer: Mr Siyabonga Shabane; 031 260 1310; 0712959247;
shabanee@ukzn.ac.za

We support students with diverse disabilities



1. Visual disability



- Visual disability comprises of total blindness, visual impairment, low vision or any eye condition that prescription glasses can not fix.

Visual disability



You will experience visual impairments as:

- Difficulty reading the PowerPoint, notes on the board/computer, notices on notice board, course outline.
- Difficulty seeing at night.
- Difficulty completing your assignments, tests and examination.
- Your eyes may be sore, itchy, out of focus
- Difficulty finding venues, late for lectures and appointments.

2. Hearing disability



Hearing disability may range from total hearing loss (prevents a person from receiving sounds) to mild loss (difficulty hearing faint or distant speech).

Hearing disability



You may experience this as:

Difficulty hearing the lecture/ADO etc especially, when they are not facing you.

Disorientated in crowds.

Difficult to hear test and examination instruction given by the invigilator.

3. PHYSICAL DISABILITIES



Physical disabilities may comprise:

- Quadriplegia
- Paraplegia
- Hemiplegia
- Cerebral Palsy

PHYSICAL DISABILITIES



You may experience this as:

- Can not access lecture venues
- In Residences you may have difficulties with accessing bathrooms and facilities in the kitchen
- You may have difficulty with Transportation

4. LEARNING DISABILITIES



- This is a general term that describes specific kinds of learning problems - Dyslexia, ADHD, Audio Processing Disorder, Visual Processing Disorder.
- A learning disability can cause a person to have difficulty learning and using certain skills.
- The skills most often affected are: reading, writing, listening, speaking.
- Learning disabilities (LD) vary from person to person.

LEARNING DISABILITIES



- **You may experience this as:**
- Difficulty to sit for long periods of time when reading, doing assignments
- Difficulty in starting assignment and presenting information for assignments and test/examinations
- Difficulty to sit for long periods of time in lectures.

5. PSYCHIATRIC DISABILITIES



Psychiatric disabilities may comprise:

- Schizophrenia
- Bipolar Mood Disorders
- Anxiety disorder
- Depressive Disorders (MDD)
- Other that may have been diagnosed.

PSYCHIATRIC DISABILITIES



You may experience this as:

- High stress levels.
- Feeling overwhelmed with work.
- Hospitalization esp, during test and examinations

6. OTHER DISABILITIES



Other disabilities may include:

- Epilepsy
- Albinism
- Diabetes
- Chronic medical conditions
- Multiple Disabilities - Some people have 2 or more disabilities e.g. deaf-blind

Reasonable Accommodations

The Disability Support Unit provisions Reasonable Accommodation for students with disabilities.

- This is essentially any strategy that removes or lessens the effect of a specific barrier which may exist in school, at the workplace, in the community, or in the home.
- An accommodation is any change or adjustment to an environment that makes it possible for an individual with a disability to have equal access to the world around them.

Examples of Reasonable Accommodations

- Extra time in test and exams
- Spelling and grammar concession in assignments, test and exams
- Accessing a scribe to write assignments, test and exams
- Hard copies of academic material, OHPs, course packs

Examples of Reasonable Accommodations

- Braille notes for blind
- Larger font
- Accessing bursaries
- Accessing reasonable housing and facilities at residences
- Functional wheelchair ramps
- And many more

Independent Education Plan

- We develop an Independent Education Plan for every student.
- We listen to your needs as you are the best person who can tell us what you need.
- We operate on the principle of "Nothing about us without us".
- Each plan is Tailor made.

Resources

- In addition we support students to access learning spaces and devices such as:
 - LANS
 - Library
 - Low vision devices
 - Braille machine
 - Wheelchairs
- The DSU will engage with each student to identify their specific need.

Other Services

ADVOCACY DEVELOPMENT
FUNDING SUPPORT INCLUSION
RESEARCH ACCESS
COUNSELLING EDUCATION
TEACHING AND LEARNING
TRAINING

A PROMISE



We ensure **CONFIDENTIALITY**



INSPIRING GREATNESS

Requirements

- **You need to submit the following:**
 - Original or certified letters from Doctor/Psychologist/Psychiatrist/Audiologist/any other professional including a hospital document that can confirm your diagnosis
 - The Process: make an appointment with Co-Ordinator via email, for an assessment and together we will develop and individual support plan.