Accessibility and Inclusive Teaching

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http://www.sjsu.edu/cfd/teaching-learning/accessibility
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Meet Two SJSU Students

 Karen’s story

 Sarina’s story
Who are Our Students?

- Individuals bring in different religion, culture background, skills, experiences, learning preferences/needs, and other characteristics to learning. View Variability Matters video. Is there an average student?

- According to SJSU Fall 2018 ethnicity statistics, our students include Asian (40.4%), Latinx (27.1%), White (19%), Two or more (4.5%), Not specified (5.2%), Black (3.2%), Pacific Islanders (0.4%), native Americans (0.1%) ethnic background.

- 25.23% First Generation, 0.84% student vets, 1.26% student athletes, and 9.6% international students.

- Diversity also includes a wide range of physical, visual [sensory], hearing, learning [cognitive], attention, and communication abilities.

- In Education, does one size fit all?
Disability Demographic Information

- According to the US Census Bureau report, about 56.7 million people — 19 percent of the population — had a disability in 2010.

- The percentage of undergraduates who reported having a disability was 19.4 percent in 2015-16.

- 26 percent of undergraduates who were veterans reported having a disability, compared with 19 percent of undergraduates who were not veterans.

~ Fast Facts from National Center for Education Statistics
AEC Student Registration Data at SJSU

Data of students registered with Accessible Education Center (AEC) at SJSU from 2005 to 2018.

- An increase from 3% in Fall 2005 to 3.67% in Fall 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>AEC Registered Students</th>
<th>SJSU Student Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2005</td>
<td>890 (3%)</td>
<td>29,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2006</td>
<td>933 (3%)</td>
<td>29,604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2007</td>
<td>1073 (3%)</td>
<td>31,906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2008</td>
<td>1124 (3%)</td>
<td>32,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2009</td>
<td>1127 (3.6%)</td>
<td>31,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2010</td>
<td>1058 (3.6%)</td>
<td>29,076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2011</td>
<td>1127 (3.7%)</td>
<td>30,236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2012</td>
<td>1102 (3.9%)</td>
<td>28,002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2013</td>
<td>1125 (4.1%)</td>
<td>27,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2015</td>
<td>1142 (3.8%)</td>
<td>29,954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2016</td>
<td>1069 (3.6%)</td>
<td>29,594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2017</td>
<td>1096 (3.75%)</td>
<td>29,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2018</td>
<td>1300 (3.67%)</td>
<td>35,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student Disclosure Issue

- ...a gap between the reported national disability statistics
  - 19.4% of undergraduates nationally vs. 3.67% of SJSU data
  - 26% of student vets nationally vs. 0.84% of SJSU student vets

- Only about 35% of students choose to disclose their disability in college...

Sources:
- Getzel, E., 2014
Why Do So Many Students Not Receive Support?

- **Registration is voluntary:**
  - Different landscape than K-12. Many students opt to not “disclose.”

- **Students have never had supports before:**
  - Their needs are “new”, and/or were not recognized before.

- **They have difficulties accessing the services available to them:**
  - Locating the relevant units; completing assessments; following through in a timely way.

- **They prefer to eschew the process and forego the supports.**
  - They find the process of disclosing to each faculty member & in each class humiliating and stigmatizing
  - They deny needing support
  - They avoid the responsibility of managing accommodations
  - They want to turn over a new leaf – see if they can do without
SJSU AEC Student Distribution

Type of disabilities registered at AEC in Fall 2018

- ADD/ADHD = 15%
- Asperger’s Syndrome = 9%
- Blind & Visually Impaired = 1%
- Communication = 1%
- DHOH = 3%
- Learning disability = 28%
- Medical/Physical = 13%
- Mental Health = 28%
- Mobility = 2%

Total = ~1300 (February, 2019)
# Types of Disabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disabilities</th>
<th>Types</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Visual</strong></td>
<td>Blindness, low vision &amp; color blindness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Auditory</strong></td>
<td>Degree of hearing loss, deaf-blindness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Motor</strong></td>
<td>• Traumatic Injuries: Spinal cord injury, Loss or damage of limb(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Diseases &amp; Congenital Conditions: Cerebral palsy, Muscular dystrophy,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Multiple sclerosis, Spinal bifida, ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), Arthritis, Parkinson's disease, Essential tremor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cognitive</strong></td>
<td>• Functional: Memory, Problem-solving, Attention, Reading, linguistic,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and verbal comprehension, Math comprehension, Visual comprehension</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Clinical Cognitive disabilities: Autism, Down Syndrome, traumatic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>brain injury (TBI), and even dementia. Less severe cognitive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>conditions include attention deficit disorder (ADD), dyslexia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(difficulty reading), dyscalculia (difficulty with math), and learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>disabilities in general</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

➢ Source: [Web Accessibility in Mind](https://webaim.org/) (WebAIM)
In a Nutshell...

- It is likely that somewhere between **10-20% of college students would qualify** for – and benefit from – accommodations suited to their learning needs. Yet typically, most campuses report that **3-4% of their students are registered** to receive such supports.

- Faculty are more open to providing additional supports for students with **“visible” disabilities** than to students with **“invisible” disabilities**.

- Faculty are generally **unaware of – but can readily learn and come to implement** – relatively simple practices and adjustments that can make a significant difference (e.g., UDL).
The Laws

- **Americans with Disability Act (ADA) of 1990**
- **Section 504** of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
  - "No otherwise qualified individual with handicaps in the United States . . . shall, solely by reason of her or his handicap, **be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination** under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance...."
- **Section 508** of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
  - Provides standards and guidelines to ensure all information and communication technology (ICT) supports accessibility for people with disabilities
- **Title II** of the ADA: (State and local governments)
  - “…prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in all services, programs, and activities provided to the public by State and local governments…”
- **California Government Code 11135**
Litigation Cases and Risks

- 2016 Office of Civil Rights (OCR) web accessibility cases from across the nation.
  - Miami University’s web content & LMS – DOJ decree
  - MIT/Harvard edX’s lack of captioning MOOCs – settlement agreement
  - Berkley’s inaccessible online content – DOJ Letter

- 2018 - 2019
  - Four CSU campuses received OCR complaint letters

- Risks from External Sources
  - Ms. Lipsitt – thousands of complaints from this civil rights activist
  - 50 Colleges Hit With ADA Lawsuits by Jason Camacho, a blind resident of Brooklyn, N.Y.
What do these schools have in common?

- Montana School for the Deaf and Blind
- Arizona State University
- University of Montana
- Atlantic Cape Community College
- Harvard University
- MIT
- Princeton University
- Case Western Reserve University
- College of the Siskiyous
- University of California, Berkeley
- Reed College
- South Carolina Technical College System
- Florida State University
- Youngstown State University
- edX
- University of Colorado at Boulder
- Louisiana Tech University
- University of Phoenix
- Miami University (Ohio)
- Penn State University
- University of Cincinnati
What We CAN Do

Courses designed with UDL “strive to focus on the strength of individuals… what they CAN do rather than on what they cannot” and “proactively address the needs of people with the broadest range of characteristics…” (Emmert, M. A. 2008)

Knowing our students, think about their diverse learning needs… and Variability Matters
What is Universal Design?

“Universal Design” was coined by Ronald Mace in the 1970s.

“…the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.”
Think Universally!

Designing a learner-centric and barrier-free learning environment

- **Multiple means of Engagement:** to engage or motivate your students
  - Different strategies or technologies to recruit students’ interest, sustain their continuous effort to participate in their learning activities (e.g., iClicker, active collaborate team learning, online, hybrid, flipped classroom)

- **Multiple means of Representation of your content**
  - Different or multi-modal ways to present, describe, or organize course content information (e.g., lecture, video, online, group discussion, road map, graphic organizers, field trip, etc.) to help them comprehend

- **Multiple means of Action/Expression:** to allow options/choices for students to be in control of or express their learning
  - Different ways to allow learners to express, demonstrate or control their learning (e.g., Quizzes, exams, projects, papers, multimedia presentations)
The Three Principles – Graphic Organizer from CAST
Inclusive Course Design Checklist

Be mindful of who our students are or who the “average students” may be by viewing Variability Matters and visit Understanding Our Students. Use checklists below to prepare for your teaching:

- The 7-step for preparing accessible/inclusive teaching
- Accessibility guidelines for text materials
- Accessibility guidelines for multimedia materials
- Inclusive Course Design checklist
Accessibility Guidelines & Best Practices for Printed Materials

Per University Policy S16-9, follow accessibility guidelines in creating your syllabus. The same guidelines apply to any text-based printed course handouts, worksheets, slides,

- Follow Accessibility Guidelines – the L.I.S.T. mnemonic to create your text based course materials
  - **Links**: Provide meaningful label for web link
  - **Images, graphs, diagrams, chars, photos**: Describe or explain any images, diagrams, charts, photos or graphical information
  - **Structure**: Include structure for your document by using heading style feature
  - **Tables**: Avoid complicated or nested tables; include and repeat header row for long tables over one page; and check the logical reading order of your table

- Best Practices:
  - Use more legible san serif fonts (e.g., Arial, Calibri, Helvetica, etc.)
  - When formatting, use heading style, lists, bold, uppercase in addition to colored texts
  - Check color contrast between text and background (WebAIM color contrast checker: http://webaim.org/resources/contrastchecker/)

Source: Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Requirements – the Four Principles
Best Practices for Multimedia or Non-printed Information

For non-print multimedia course materials
- Include closed captions for your instructional videos
- Include a transcript for your audio materials
- Avoid using color Only to convey information
- Use simple slide transition to reduce distraction
- Avoid animation or Flash; if used, describe the information
- Avoid flashing graphics that may cause epileptic seizures

Captioning support available at CFD’s Captioning Support web page.

Source: Section 508 Standards Chapter 2 E205.4 and WCAG 2.0
Point of Contact

Elizabeth.Tu@sjsu.edu or 408 924-3093

CFD’s Accessibility and Inclusive Teaching page:
http://www.sjsu.edu/cfd/teaching-learning/accessibility
The Importance of Structure or Description of Links

- Some screen readers can list all the web links for the document. (See screenshot on the right.)

- If only urls are listed, it’s difficult for users to relate the urls to your web references. (See upper half of this screenshot.)

- It’s more meaningful for screen reader to read the website name or label. (See lower half of this screenshot.)