#### **Student Accessibility Services**



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#### **Student Accessibility Services**

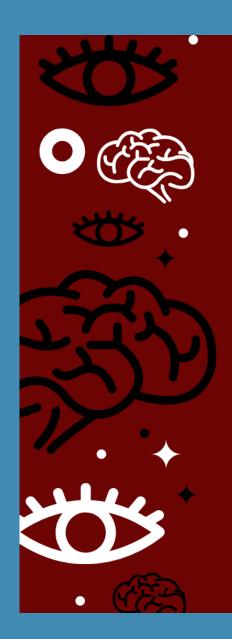
Our **mission** is to empower students to access a meaningful university experience and become well-informed self-advocates.

Our **vision** is to bring together the BSU Community to reduce barriers and foster an inclusive and accessible experience for all.

Empower advocates.

Promote equality.

Enrich community.



#### FACT:

23% OF STUDENT RESPONDENTS TO THE 2018 **BSU CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY IDENTIFIED AS HAVING A** DISABILITY.

End the stigma. Access your education.

SAS at
Bridgewater State
University
supports over
1,000 students.

1,000 students = Appx. 10% of all enrolled students

- Learning, Intellectual, or Cognitive Conditions (Dyslexia, Language Processing Disorder, Down Syndrome, etc.)
- Medical Diagnosis or Physical Condition
   (Blindness/Low Vision, D/HOH, Paraplegia, Diabetes, Crohns Disease etc.)
- Psychological Diagnosis
   (ADD, Gender Dysphoria, Anxiety Disorder, Major Depression, OCD, Schizoaffective Disorder, etc.)
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Neurological Disorders or Brain Injury (Migraine, Epilepsy, TBI, etc.,)
- Temporary or Time-Limited Injuries (Broken bone, Concussion, Long COVID-19)



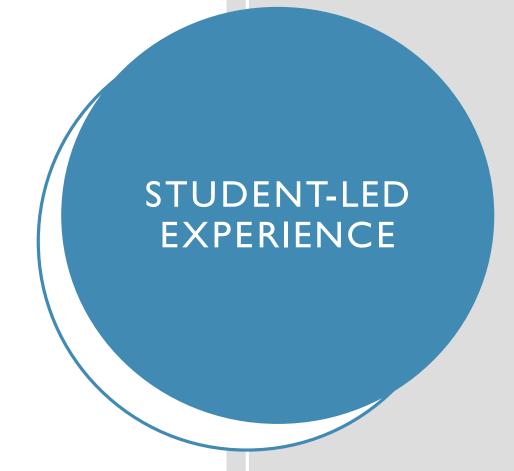
"substantially limits one+ major life areas"

(seeing, hearing, eating, walking, reading, learning, breathing, etc.)

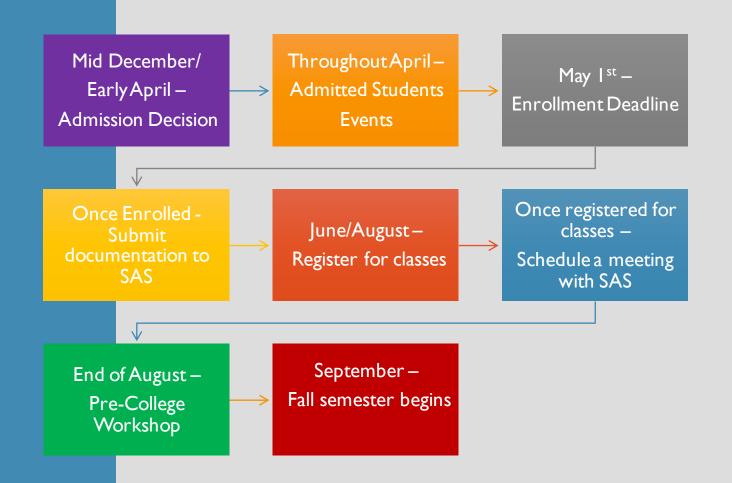


[Image description: Three frames, labeled Equality, Accommodation, Accessibility. Equality depicts a shorter person, taller person, and person utilizing a wheelchair attempting to write on a board hung high, indicating struggle for the shorter person, ease for the taller person, and no access for the person using a wheelchair. Accommodation shows a box provided for the shorter person and a ramp provided for the person using a wheelchair, allowing each person full access to the board. Accessibility depicts the same three people with the Board lowered to a height that is functional for all, without the need for boxes or ramps, allowing each person full access occurring without additional resources.]

- Students must self-identify to and request accommodations directly from Student Accessibility Services
- Students must submit required documentation to the designated office
  - Note: If a student submits their IEP or other documentation as part of the admissions process, it is <u>not</u> automatically forwarded
- Students must actively participate in the interactive process of discussing their diagnosis(es), the impact they experience, and possible accommodations
- Students must distribute letters of accommodation and discuss implementation with Faculty
- Students must communicate if they need assistance, if accommodations aren't working as planned, etc.



# TIMELINE FOR ACCOMMODATIONS AT BSU



#### BSU'S ACCOMMODATION PROCESS



2

3

4

5

6

7

Student must selfinitiate their request for accommodations Student must submit their documentation to SAS directly Documentation is reviewed by a SAS team member

SAS team member will provide student with next steps once documentation has been reviewed Student will meet with an Accessibility Specialist to discuss reasonable accommodations for the semester

Student will receive an accommodation letter via email from the Accessibility Specialist Student will send their accommodation letter to the professors directly

#### **DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS:**

A specific diagnosis must be included (Based on ICD-10 or DSM-V criteria)

Evaluation/Diagnosis must be conducted by a qualified professional

Testing or other evaluation(s) must be current (within 3 years)

Documentation must be on professional letterhead and include license information of the evaluator.

Documentation for Learning,
Intellectual, or Cognitive Diagnoses
should also include:
A clinical summary with diagnostic
interview; assessment (aptitude,
achievement, and information
processing); actual test scores from
standardized instruments.

Documentation for
Medical, Mobility/Physical,
Emotional/Psychological
Diagnoses or Autism should also
include: A summary of the severity
of the condition and how it
substantially limits life areas;
expected prognosis; active
treatments

# ACADEMIC & COMMUNITY ACCOMMODATIONS

REFERRALS TO CAMPUS RESOURCES

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

TRAININGS & IN-SERVICES



Peer Mentoring
Peer Connections & BSU Other Events
ACCESS Extravaganza



Assistive Technology Adaptive Lab



Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services
Classroom Accommodations
Mobility Planning & Adaptive Equipment



Housing, Meal Plans and Parking Exceptions
Emotional Support Animal Requests & Service Dog Planning
NCAA / Athletics Academic Recovery Plans



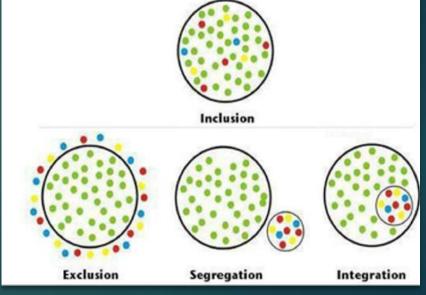
Academic Achievement Center
Clubs & Organizations
Wellness Center, PRIDE Center, and more!



# EXCEL Program – What is it all about?

- ► Mission: ensuring students with intellectual/developmental disabilities have a *fully- inclusive* college experience alongside their college-aged peers in the areas of academics, socialization, career development, and independent living.
- Bridgewater continues to be a leader in diversity, social justice, and inclusion providing a pathway to college access!





# EXCEL Program Today! College Options for Students with Learning Differences

EXCEL
Partnership
\*Districts pay

EXCEL
Certificate
\*Private pay

EXCEL
Transition
\*Private pay



#### **Program Outcomes**

- ✓ Academic Growth in College Courses
  - ✓ Employability Skills Development
    - ✓ Growth in Self-Determination
    - ✓ Development of Social skills
- ✓ Independent Living Skills Development

(Advanced opportunities for students living on campus)



### EXCEL **Private** Pay Options

#### **EXCEL Certificate**

- Designed for students 18+ who completed their high school requirements, but were unable to obtain a high school diploma
- Fully-inclusive two- year BSU endorsed certificate program (Non-Degree)
  - ► Students must complete Plan of Study
- Previously enrolled in high school special education program
- Documented intellectual/ developmental disability
- Goal: gain the confidence/independence needed to be better prepared for competitive paid employment



#### **EXCEL Transition**

- Designed for students 18+ who have earned a high school diploma
- ► Fully-inclusive postsecondary program for students who need extra support to successfully transition from high school to college (Non-Degree)
- Significant documented disability
- Goal: gain the confidence/independence needed to apply as a degree-seeking undergraduate student at BSU

#### Student Support

- ► Education Coach support
- ▶ Job Coach support
- ▶ Peer Mentor connections

- ► EXCEL Staff Check-in meetings
- ▶ Residence Life support





#### Interested?

https://www.bridgew.edu/EXCEL





- Attend a virtual information session!
  - **▶** 10/29
  - ► Sign up: <a href="https://www.bridgew.edu/EXCEL">https://www.bridgew.edu/EXCEL</a> links on homepage!
- Visitus....safely!
  - https://www.bridgew.edu/campus-tour
- Contactus!
  - ► Tina Raeke, Director <u>craeke@bridgew.edu</u>
  - Christina Tichacek, Campus Life Coordinator <u>ctichacek@bridgew.edu</u>
  - ▶ Zack Chipman, Community Connections and Job Development Specialist – zchipman@bridgew.edu
  - Lisa Turner, Administrative Assistant II -

Iturner@bridgew.edu

- Follow us on social media!
  - ► Instagram @BSU\_EXCEL
  - ► Facebook BSU EXCEL Programs
  - ▶ Twitter @BSU\_EXCEL

## Banacos Academic Center



# High School Personnel

- Welcome
- Quick overview of Banacos Academic Center at Westfield State University
- Preparing students for college and admissions process
- Admissions issues
- Current challenges in the high schools

# What is the Banacos Academic Center?

#### Houses four programs:

- Tutoring Program
- Academic Strategies
- Disability Services
- Learning Disabilities Program

# Tutoring and Academic Strategies

- A free, robust, peer tutoring and professional academic strategies program for all university students!
- Academic strategies support includes workshops in reading, exam preparation and taking, time management, and note taking.
- Tutors are mostly upper-level students recommended by professors.
- Requests for tutoring are initiated by the student, and tutors cannot be guaranteed for every course and student! We do our best to support most courses.

# Disability Services

- <u>Disability Services</u> provides a wide array of reasonable, appropriate accommodations for students with learning, physical, psychological, or medical challenges.
- Students are expected to register with the office and request their own accommodations.
- They must provide current documentation of their medical or mental health conditions for determination of disability.
- Please write to <u>ds@westfield.ma.edu</u> with questions.

#### Reasonable Accommodations

All reasonable accommodations are determined on an individualized basis in consultation with the student and upon review of supporting documentation.

Some accommodations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Exam accommodations (including 50 or 100% extended time, readers, scribes, laptop use, distraction reduced room, exam room (over 2500 exams last year)
- Note taking assistance for classes
- Sign language interpreters
- Kurzweil 3000 (screen reader) and scanners
- Etc.

## The Learning Disabilities Program

- The Learning Disabilities Program is an academic support program for incoming, first-time, first-year students who have a primary or secondary diagnosis of a learning disorder and/or ADHD.
- Please write to <a href="mailto:ldp@westfield.ma.edu">ldp@westfield.ma.edu</a> with any questions.
- o Information on applying is available at the LDP website.

## What makes us unique

- A program advisor (<u>one</u> point person) to follow a student from orientation to graduation.
- We meet with students once or twice a week to help with studying, organizing, and finding resources.
- We meet with first and second year students each semester to help with early course registration.
- We work with students to determine which accommodations are reasonable and appropriate.
- We reach out to students regularly and monitor their academic progress.

## Ways to visit

All visits to the Center are done remotely at this time.

Families may visit our website at <a href="www.westfield.ma.edu/banacos">www.westfield.ma.edu/banacos</a> and look for the "sign up here to visit our Center" link at the bottom of the page.

## Questions?

If you have questions about any services
 offered at the Banacos Academic Center,
 please write to: <a href="mailto:banacos@westfield.ma.edu">banacos@westfield.ma.edu</a>.



# Challenges in the high schools

Please tell us your concerns and ask any questions at this time.



# Thank you from the Banacos Academic Center Staff