

Students with Disabilities Persisting Through Higher Education Their Perspective

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Learning Outcomes

Recall the issues students with disabilities frequently face while attending higher education

Identify themes from students with disabilities who persisted in higher education and illustrate how those themes attributed to their challenges or successes in higher education

Appraise the information in regard to the situation at their own campus and evaluate how this information will impact their role at their own campus

Design a plan of action for improving inclusion of students with disabilities on their campus

Why this topic?

Starting out, I knew my topic would always encompass students with disabilities.

During the literature review process, unfortunately I found that the perspectives of students with disabilities in literature hard to find.

Many articles talked about students with disabilities without actually surveying or talking to the students with disabilities.

What I found out so far...

Transition Preparation

Rough first year academically
IEP supported them so well during high school.

Failure to make social connections
This includes relationships with faculty, staff and peers.

Others not accepting my needs as a learner
ADA and 504 just ensure access, not accommodation.

Need to move institutions or closer to home
Moving to a new community means leaving home and support services.

Stigma

Students with disabilities sometimes view higher education as a new beginning.

They chose to not disclose due to the stigma associated with disability.

"About two-thirds of postsecondary students with disabilities receive no accommodations from their schools, primarily because their schools are unaware of their disabilities."

-After High School: A First Look at the Post School Experiences of Youth with Disabilities

Self-Advocacy

Students are provided accommodations by law through high school graduation.

Their educators, parents and occupational therapists take care of the planning.

The students with disabilities then graduate not knowing their needs as learners... or not being confident in articulating their needs.

Students who felt confident about who they are disclosed their disabilities in a decisive manner, they knew the kinds of support or accommodations they need, and they didn't hesitate to tell the instructor.

-Delta Gamma Kappa Bulletin, Summer 2007

Collaborative Support

The one office model.

Students with disabilities expressed frustration with the institution population on the whole for not being aware of accommodations, disabilities, and basic awareness.

One study showed 77% of faculty on campus wanted to know more about serving students with disabilities.

Inclusive Education

Students with disabilities often felt excluded.

Singled out as needing services.

Exasperation toward faculty and staff.

Universal Instructional Design

Students with disabilities
expressed how luxurious
it was to be in a classroom or course
with accommodations built in.

What can we do?

Transition Preparation

Specific first-year programs

Relationships with local high schools

Educate about self-advocacy and students with disabilities on your campus.

Create safe spaces for students

Know services in community for students with disabilities

Stigma

Many students expressed a desire to avoid stigma associated with having a disability.

How can we break the stigma?

Self-Advocacy

Help students explore their needs as a:

learner

campus community member

general society member

future employee

Collaborative Support

Make inclusion something for everyone
Faculty, Staff, and Students

Remember educating the whole student?

Make that into supporting the
whole student at your campus!

Inclusive Education

Students with disabilities benefit from being in the classroom with their peers without disabilities.

The same goes for the other way around.

Universal Instructional Design

Learning should be a right, not a luxury.

Make materials more accessible for all.

This includes the whole campus ideally.

Issues

Themes from the Issues

Items for the Bucket List

Action Item(s)
