

Office of Disability Services

Presented By:
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Assistant Director

Overview of Presentation

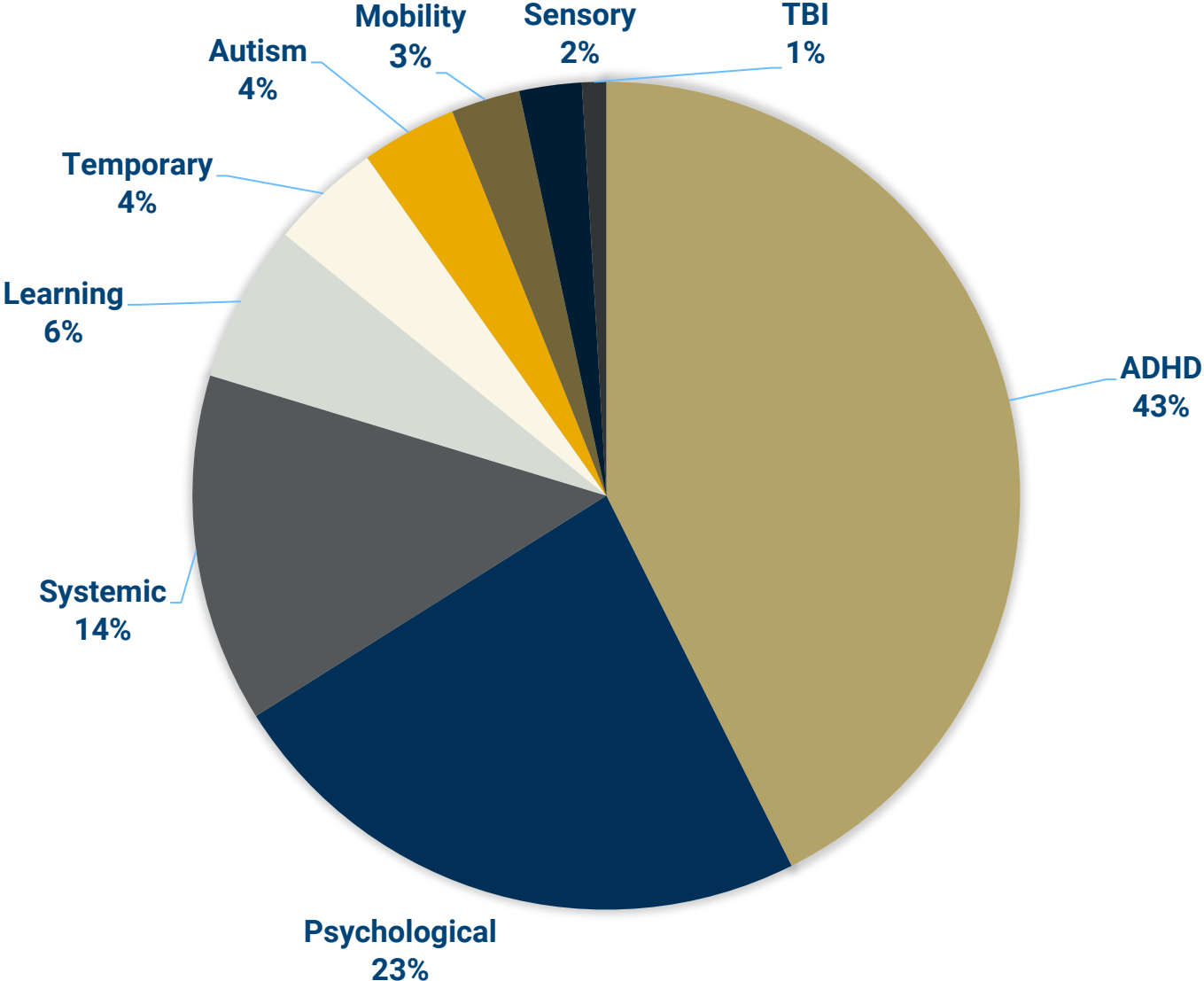
- Supporting Students with Disabilities
- The Office of Disability Services
- The Accommodations Process
- Documentation Guidelines
- Differences between High School and College

Supporting Students with Disabilities

We provide academic accommodations for students with legally defined and documented disabilities.

We currently serve nearly 2900 students (April 2024).

Legally supported office, following Americans with Disabilities Act and Amendments and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.



The Office of Disability Services

- Point of contact for students who have a disability that in some way impairs their academic performance to arrange academic accommodations.
- Goal is to ensure **equal access** to educational environments.

The Accommodation Process

1.

The student will complete the intake form that is found on the Disability Services Website. The student must also provide accompanying documentation from a medical provider.

2.

A member of the Disability Services staff will review the form and documentation and schedule an intake meeting with the student. In this interactive meeting, eligibility and reasonable accommodations will be determined and approved.

3.

Students will be sent their eligibility letters after the meeting. Each semester, students will request their Faculty Notification Letters, which will be sent to their instructors. Then, students will meet with their instructors to discuss their accommodations.

Documentation Guidelines

- Documentation must:
 - Come from a qualified evaluator
 - Generally be within a few years from the date of requested services
 - Attest to the presence of a disabling condition as defined by the ADA
 - Demonstrate current substantial limitations impacting performance in the academic environment
- Guidelines can be found in the USG Student Affairs Academic Handbook: [Academic and Student Affairs Handbook Appendix D: Disability Documentation](#)

Key Differences Between High School and College

- Documentation
 - IEPs/504s are considered supplemental documentation; additional documentation is required.
- Records
 - Parents, Family, and Supporters cannot access information about a student without express written consent in addition to any additional waivers signed.
- Advocacy
 - The student will be advocating for themselves.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Rights

- Equal access to educational and co-curricular programs
- Reasonable accommodations on a case-by-case basis
- Confidentiality in matters related to disability

Responsibilities

- Meet the Institute's qualifications and standards
- Self-identify as a person with a disability to ODS and request accommodations
- Provide appropriate documentation
- Maintain communication
- Request FNLs each semester
- Initiate conversations with each instructor each semester

Examples of Accommodations

- Accommodations are provided on a case-by-case basis
 - Exam Accommodations
 - Extended time, distraction-reduced environment
 - Note-taking Assistance
 - Preferential Seating
 - Alternative Text Formats
 - Interpreting and real-time captioning
- Note: Students might not receive the same accommodations in college as they did in high school. College accommodations are focused on equal access. We cannot provide that same level of one-on-one support students might have received in high school.



Other FAQs

- Students can submit documentation from another institution as documentation if it fits the guidelines for USG/ODS.
- Students with food allergies need to meet with the nutritionist for meal plan considerations.
- ODS can provide referrals for testing for disabilities (Autism, ADHD, Learning Disabilities, Psychiatric).

Contact Information

Visit our website for more information:
<https://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>

Call

404.894.2563

Write

dsinfo@gatech.edu

Visit

Smithgall Student Services Building,
Suite 123

353 Ferst Dr. NW

Atlanta, GA 30332

8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday