





















Accessibility at William & Mary





Today's Goals

- 1. Challenge assumptions and spread awareness
 - 2. Highlight resources and improvement areas
- 3. Convey lived experiences of students at William & Mary

No one single experience, but there are common themes





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A Day at William & Mary

Scenario 1.

Lunch hour at Cosi



Scenario 2.

Pencil breaks during exam



"Perpetual cycle of distractions"

Scenario 3.

Laptop for lecture notes



"If I can tell the professor won't be accommodating, I just drop the class"

Scenario 4.

Finding a place to study in Swem



"Going with friends to study is supposed to be a group activity. But not for me."

Scenario 5.

Procession through the Wren at Convocation



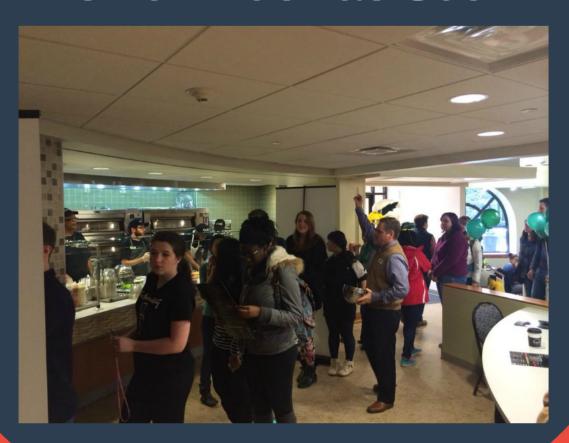
"Convocation assumes a level of ability for incoming students"

Photoby Stephen Salpukas



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Photo by Stephen Salpukas William & Mary, flickr



What does accessibility mean?



- Creating barrier-free environments
- Providing reasonable accommodations
- Promoting inclusion, connection, and access



ADHD MODILITY

Lyme disease

chronic joint pain

broken bones

Celiac's disease

Irritable Bowel Syndrome

Lyme disease

chronic joint pain

permanent limited mobility

& more



Major Hurdles

Navigation

Inclement weather

"If there is snow, I can forget about going to class- the sidewalks are never shoveled enough for me to get by"

Historical and inaccessible

"Two-thirds of the academic buildings that I needed to use were inaccessible to me"

Parking

"I feel like I got the run-around"



Inaccessible Places

- Wren Building
- Upstairs in PBK Hall
- Multiple language houses
- College Apartments
 Reves Center
- · & More



Visibility



"You try to blend in but once you're found out, there is no going back"

"There's a stigma with getting accommodations, especially if you don't have a visible reason for it."



"If one person had stood up 4 years ago and shared their perspective, I could have avoided my worst experiences at the College"

Classroom Environment



"The willingness of professors to be accommodating varies based on what you're asking the professor to do."

Concentrating in class is not as easy as one may think

Community & Connection



Campus tours and orientation send signals of who is welcome here

"All I ask for is an even playing field"

"How can I feel like a part of a family or a community when this school fails me so often?"



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How do we keep moving forward?



Understanding and action



Student-Led Initiatives

 CORPUS: Disabled Student Advocacy Group



- Student Veterans Working Group
- Spearheading Golf Cart program



Student Accessibility Services

- "Dean Henderson has been a great ally ... she's won over a lot of students"
- Building community by connecting students together
- Golf cart program





Golf Carts

Launched Fall 2015

Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM

3,480 rides to date

26.3 rides per day

250 rides during Orientation





Beyond Compliance

- Real-world, real impact
- Bolster student confidence
- Begin with simple fixes









Thank you!

Questions?

