

Disability Services Name Change

We are changing our name from Disability Services to **Disability Resources**. There are practical as well as philosophical reasons that have led to this name change:

- The transition from “services” to “resources” is representative of a nation-wide movement from the medical model of disability to the social model incorporating Universal Design.
- Disability “Services” keeps the focus on students with disabilities as the problem rather than placing the focus on environmental barriers and the goal for universal design.
- Dropping the word “services” is more congruent with student development theory wherein we provide resources so that students might direct themselves rather than be served by an office.
- “Disability Services” implies that one office has the primary responsibility to serve those with disabilities. The reality is that creating inclusive learning environments is a responsibility of everyone; not just one office.
- “Disability Resources” more accurately describes the role of the office with students, faculty, staff, and administrators as well as our community. Often, our role is to collaborate with members of the campus community in creating more usable and inclusive environments.
- “Disability” needs to remain part of the office name. “Disability” is a key word as a source of pride, as a part of diversity, and as an aspect of the civil rights movement. More practically, it is the most commonly recognized keyword in a search for resources in online and other directories.