

# AccessAbility

DASS Newsletter  
Disability Accommodations and Success Strategies

August 2025  
Vol 18 Issue 1

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS AND SUCCESS STRATEGIES  
PRESENTS:

## DASSapalooza!

Join DASS staff members and students for **food** and **fun** while you learn about:

- The benefits of weekly academic coaching
- Students for New Learning, the SMU org. for (and led by!) neurodivergent students
- Our DASS Peer Mentor pilot program
- And meet your Coordinator

Thursday, Sept. 4  
4:30-5:30 pm  
A-LEC 202N



### Semester Requests = Accommodations

You can submit your semester request for fall letters beginning August 11th

Here is the DASS Link login that will take you to your home page: <https://shibboleth-smuaccommodate.symplicity.com/sso/>

#### This is very important:

Review your request by scrolling through every approved accommodation listed and only have checked the classes you are going to be enrolled in for the fall. 2 reasons:

- 1) You want a letter sent only to the professors of classes you will be enrolled in.
- 2) It expedites our sending your letter to you and your professors.

\*\*\*It is still your responsibility to reach out to your instructor and discuss your accommodation needs after sharing the letter in DASS Link.

## WELCOME MUSTANGS!

Our AccessAbility newsletter is meant to be a message board for DASS students. When it arrives in your inbox, take a few minutes to open and read so you are aware of DASS updates.

### Meet the DASS Team

**Alexa Taylor, Director of DASS** Alexa supervises the other fulltime staff, collaborates with departments and faculty members on accommodation issues, reviews and revises operational processes, and handles special projects for DASS. She has been with SMU for 24 years.

**Michelle Bufkin, Assistant Director** Michelle reviews accommodation requests primarily from students with LD or ADHD. She is also a certified academic language therapist and has been with SMU for 18 years.

**Jeanna Turay, Accommodations Coordinator** Jeanna primarily reviews accommodation requests from students with medical and mobility conditions. She is the designated Coordinator for graduate students, as well. She has been with SMU for 3 years.

**Valiza Patterson, Accommodations Coordinator** Valiza primarily reviews accommodation requests from students with psychological conditions and Autism (ASD). She has been with SMU for 2 years.

**David Tylicki, Senior Learning Specialist** David primarily provides academic counseling and coaching to neurodivergent students assisting them with goal setting, time management, self-awareness, and self-advocacy skills. He also oversees SMU's neurodivergent student organization, Students for New Learning (SNL). He has been with SMU 13 years.

**Candy Brown, Administrative Coordinator** Candy routes all accommodation requests and correspondence coming to DASS, along with making sure the team has what they need. She has been with SMU for 13 years.

**Max Ashby, Graduate Assistant** Max works with David to provide coaching to neurodivergent students. They are currently working on their Masters in Counseling.

The DASS Team ~ 214-768-1470  
[dass@smu.edu](mailto:dass@smu.edu)

DASS Link Student Log-In: <https://shibboleth-smu-accommodate.symplicity.com/sso/>