



AccessAbility

DASS Newsletter
Disability Accommodations and Success Strategies

May 2025
Vol 18 Issue 16

Congratulations



to our graduating seniors and others who are completing degrees!

If you have any feedback for our office on your experience at SMU as a student with a disability, please do take a minute to share that with our office: DASS@smu.edu
You may also want to download a copy of your last accommodation letter from DASS Link for your own records.

**If you are continuing your education at SMU next semester, please notify DASS so we can keep your information current.



Peggy R. and Constance Harrison & James A. Sutton Scholarships

The **Harrison scholarship** is for SMU students with disabilities who demonstrate financial need, with preference given to those with speech, language, or hearing problems. The **Sutton scholarship** is for SMU students with disabilities, with preference given to students with physical limitations.

•How to apply:

**May 15th
Deadline**

Submit to DASS@smu.edu a 1 pg. essay discussing why "you would be a good candidate for these scholarships".

- * Only one essay needs to be considered for Harrison and Sutton.
- * Use subject line: DASS Scholarship application.
- * Please include your current GPA to your essay.

DASS in the Community

DASS staff engage the community through webinars, school district presentations, and community



college transition fairs to support prospective SMU students with disabilities.

At a recent DCCC fair, Accommodations Coordinator Valiza Bennett spoke with students about requesting accommodations and available support services. The DASS mascot, Ozzie, also made an appearance.



DASS is moving to Blanton this summer!

SUMMER Semester Requests

*If you are enrolled for **May Term 2026**, due to the fast-paced mini-term, it is important to have your letters and accommodations in place sooner than later. Classes will begin on **May 16th - June 2nd** and having your letters requested and delivered ahead of time will help you stay on track.*

Summer & Mini summer sessions
Be sure and submit your semester request for your summer classes a couple of weeks before classes begin so you have time to contact your instructor to discuss testing arrangements well before a test is scheduled!

The DASS Team ~ 214-768-1470
dass@smu.edu

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



!!TWO SMU SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!!

The **Peggy R. and Constance Harrison scholarship** is for SMU students with disabilities who demonstrate financial need, with preference given to those with speech, language, or hearing problems.

The **James A. Sutton scholarship** is for SMU students with disabilities, with preference given to students with physical limitations.

How to apply:

- * *Submit to DASS@smu.edu a 1 pg. essay discussing why “you would be a good candidate for these scholarships”.*
- * *Only one essay is needed to be considered for Harrison and Sutton.*
- * *Use subject line: DASS Scholarship application.*
- * *Please include your current GPA to your essay.*



DEADLINE: 5/15/26

Don't miss out—this is a quick application for real financial support.

These one-time awards will apply to next year, starting Fall 2026.

You must show financial need to be considered for the Harrison scholarship (as demonstrated by FAFSA).

There must be room left in your Fall “package” for an award, or you could consider decreasing some loan amount if you qualify for funds from the Harrison scholarship.

Undergraduates and graduate students in good standing can be considered for this award, but you must be a student at SMU in Fall 2026.

NOTE: *Priority may be given to those who have not received funds from the scholarships before.*



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Your Most Important Final Exam Resource?

YOU!

Mapping out a study plan during the finals period is critical, but don't forget that while making flashcards, attending study groups, and completing practice tests are great, **your most valuable resource is you.**

You must be in top mental form to do your best, and that means taking care of your body. Plan your study time, but don't forget to also plan a good night's sleep (at least 4 hours, but preferably 7-8), nutritious meals (at least 2 a day), and aerobic exercise (20-30 minutes) during this time.

Keeping up a healthy routine of sleeping, eating, and exercise will lower your stress, improve your concentration, and maximize your chances for good grades on your finals.

You've got this!

David Tylicki, Academic Coach



Peggy R. and Constance Harrison & James A. Sutton Scholarships

Applications for these scholarships will be accepted from any currently enrolled SMU student with a disability from now to May 15th.

Priority may be given to those with physical challenges, speech, hearing, sight, financial hardship (depending on the scholarship), or those who have not received funds from the scholarships before.

Submit a 1 pg. essay discussing why you would be a good candidate for these scholarships

Send c/o SMU's DASS office
dass@smu.edu by 5/15/26.

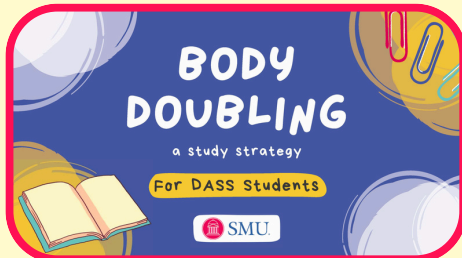
DEADLINE

Looking for Successful Study Strategies for final exams?

You have access to short videos on the DASS website that are proven strategies students have used.

Checkout:


The Pomodora Method, Body Doubling, and The Holding Bin an organizational strategy



Enrolled in May Term?
Submit your Semester Request NOW!
May Term is a separate semester and a letter is necessary to receive accommodations. Instructions are on the DASS website.

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dass@smu.edu

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



Need financial support for next year? This could be for YOU.

SMU is offering two scholarships specifically for students with disabilities—and you only need ONE short essay to be considered for both:

Harrison Scholarship: For students with financial need (FAFSA required), with preference for those with speech, language, or hearing challenges.

Sutton Scholarship: For students with disabilities, with preference for those with physical limitations.


How to apply (super simple):
Send an email to DASS@smu.edu with:



- A 1-page essay explaining why you're a strong candidate
- Your current GPA
- Subject line: DASS Scholarship Application

 **Deadline: May 15, 2026**

Important details:

- Awards apply to Fall 2026
 - Open to undergrad + grad students in good standing
 - You must be enrolled at SMU in Fall 2026
 - Financial need is required for the Harrison Scholarship
 - If your financial aid is already full, you may need to adjust loans to receive funds
- 



Don't miss out—this is a quick application for real financial support.

NOTE: Priority may be given to those who have not received funds from the scholarships before.