

# Suggestions for Advisors

From the Office of Differing Abilities Services (ODAS)

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<http://differingabilities.pages.tcnj.edu>

- ❖ An advisor can ask students if they are registered with the ODAS. Registration with ODAS can be confirmed by calling the office. Students have been advised to identify to their advisors.
- ❖ Upon confirmation of a disability by the student an advisor can discuss accommodations, ask to see a copy of the faculty accommodation letter, and may inquire about the student's disability, when appropriate to their support.
- ❖ For students who choose not to identify their disability, it is important to respect their privacy and address their accommodation requests based upon their accommodation letter from ODAS.
- ❖ Advisors can consult with ODAS for guidance on best practices as needed.
- ❖ An advisor can recommend a lighter course load and a careful balance of courses to students registered with the ODAS.
- ❖ An advisor can suggest that a student requiring extended time on tests DOES NOT schedule courses back to back.
- ❖ An advisor can discuss and clarify TCNJ academic requirements relative to the student's disability (foreign language, quantitative reasoning, lab science, etc.).
- ❖ Advisors can clarify, when necessary, that regardless of disability status, all students are held accountable to college policy, rules and regulations.
- ❖ An advisor can refer ODAS students to The Tutoring Center, the Center for Academic Success, Career Services and Counseling and Psychological Services for support.
- ❖ An advisor can inform non-registered student about ODAS. Many students are diagnosed with disabilities while they are attending college. Students with previously undiagnosed disabilities may gather information on documentation from the ODAS website. Faculty may refer students for a brief meeting with the ODAS administrator to discuss their status and help guide students to off campus resources for evaluation.
- ❖ Colleges are not required to evaluate students for disabilities. Students are responsible for evaluations under their own health coverage.
- ❖ Advisers should also be aware that students with mobility or medical disabilities may not require academic accommodations, but may need to be met in an accessible location.