

Accessibility Services Anchor Program

Accessibility Services, 123 Row Hall, counseling@westga.edu, (678) 839-6428,

<http://www.westga.edu/accessibility>

Updated March, 2016

What is the Anchor Program?

The Anchor Program provides intervention designed to support students with disabilities in their initial transition to the university setting. Anchors are peer mentors (both graduate and undergraduate students) whose role is to provide mentoring, support, coaching, and connection with other resources on campus. **The Anchor Program is not an accommodation, but rather a service UWG has chosen to provide to students with disabilities to enhance their college experience and support their success.** Students are not entitled legally by ADA to services through the Anchor Program as they are entitled to classroom and/or housing accommodations. Examples of assistance provided by anchors include:

- Assistance with organizing their schoolwork and assignments
- Assistance with emailing Student Accommodations Reports (SARs) to instructors and others and how to discuss their reports appropriately
- Assistance with use of Academic Testing Services to receive testing accommodations
- Assistance with time management and study skills
- Other assistance as may be appropriate depending on the student's disability and needs. For example, a visually impaired student may receive assistance with learning to navigate campus.

The Anchor Program DOES NOT provide:

- Academic tutoring - Free tutoring services are provided through the Center for Academic Success and others on campus. Anchors can provide appropriate referrals.
- Personal Counseling – Free personal counseling is provided through the Counseling Center. Anchors can provide appropriate referrals.
- A replacement for student effort, engagement and personal responsibility for learning and overall success.

Eligibility

Students must be referred by their accessibility counselor. Students should discuss with their accessibility counselor if they wish to be considered for the Anchor Program. The accessibility counselor determines eligibility and fit. Not all students who receive an accommodation report will be referred to the Anchor Program. The number and frequency of appointments will be determined collaboratively between the accessibility counselor, the Anchor Program supervisor, and the anchor.

Student Responsibilities

Students will be expected to sign an agreement during their first anchoring appointment indicating their understanding of their responsibilities:

- Attending scheduled appointments and canceling if they will be unable to attend
- Bringing any needed materials such as syllabi and planners
- Being receptive to suggestions, guidance and referrals to other campus resources
- Completing homework and assignments and attending class