

Accessibility Services Cornerstone Group
Accessibility Services, 123 Row Hall, counseling@westga.edu, (678) 839-6428,
<http://www.westga.edu/accessibility>
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What is the Cornerstone Group?

This group provides students with the opportunity to discuss with their peers various issues experienced by students with disabilities adjusting to college life. The group is primarily intended for first year college students, but other students may participate as deemed appropriate. The group will have two leaders, at least one of whom will be a licensed professional counselor. During group, participants will discuss their feelings and experiences while also receiving feedback and insights from the group leaders. **The Cornerstone Group 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 participation in the Cornerstone Group as they are entitled to classroom and/or housing accommodations. Examples of topics discussed in this group include:

- How to talk to instructors and others (advisors, staff members, etc.) on campus
- Self-advocacy
- Self-management, including tasks associated with living on your own and how to manage time and priorities
- Dealing with stress
- Seeking appropriate help when needed
- Understanding personal boundaries
- Social skills and making friends

The Cornerstone Group DOES NOT provide:

- A replacement for personal counseling – Free personal counseling is provided through the Counseling Center.
- A replacement for student effort, engagement and personal responsibility for health and overall well-being.

Eligibility

Students must be referred by their accessibility counselor or by their anchor if the student is part of the anchor program. Students should discuss with their accessibility counselor or anchor if they wish to be considered for the Cornerstone Group. The student's accessibility counselor determines eligibility and fit. Not all students who receive an accommodation report will be referred to the Cornerstone Group. Students who regularly visit the Assistive Technology Lab in the library, and spend time there interacting with other students with disabilities, will be strongly encouraged to participate.

Participant Expectations

During the first group meeting each semester participant expectations will be discussed. Any group members joining after the first meeting will be required to meet with a group leader to discuss the expectations before participating. At a minimum, expectations will include:

- Confidentiality – Group members are not to share personal information that is discussed outside of group with each other or non-group members.
- Respect – Group members are to be respectful of others and listen to the group leaders' directions.
- Commitment – Group members are expected to attend regularly.