

Accommodation and Accessibility: Students with Disabilities at Western

Wendy Dickinson, Ph.D.

Acting Associate Director

Services for Students with Disabilities

Before we get started...

We all experience disability over the course of our life – this is a shared experience and a shared responsibility.

Before we get started...

Every person with a disability has a unique experience and a unique set of needs. One size does not fit all.

Before we get started...

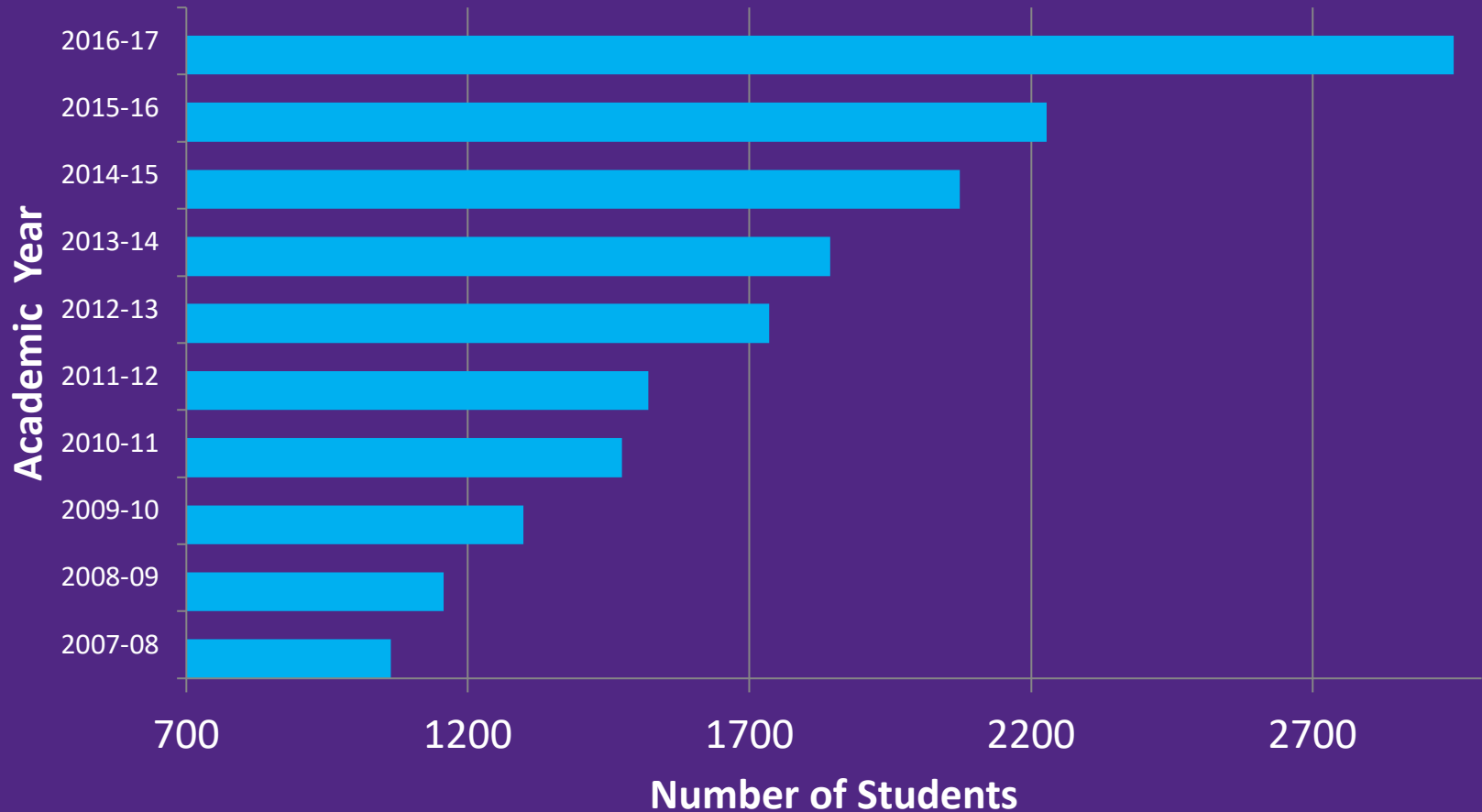
It's only a disability when it gets in your way!

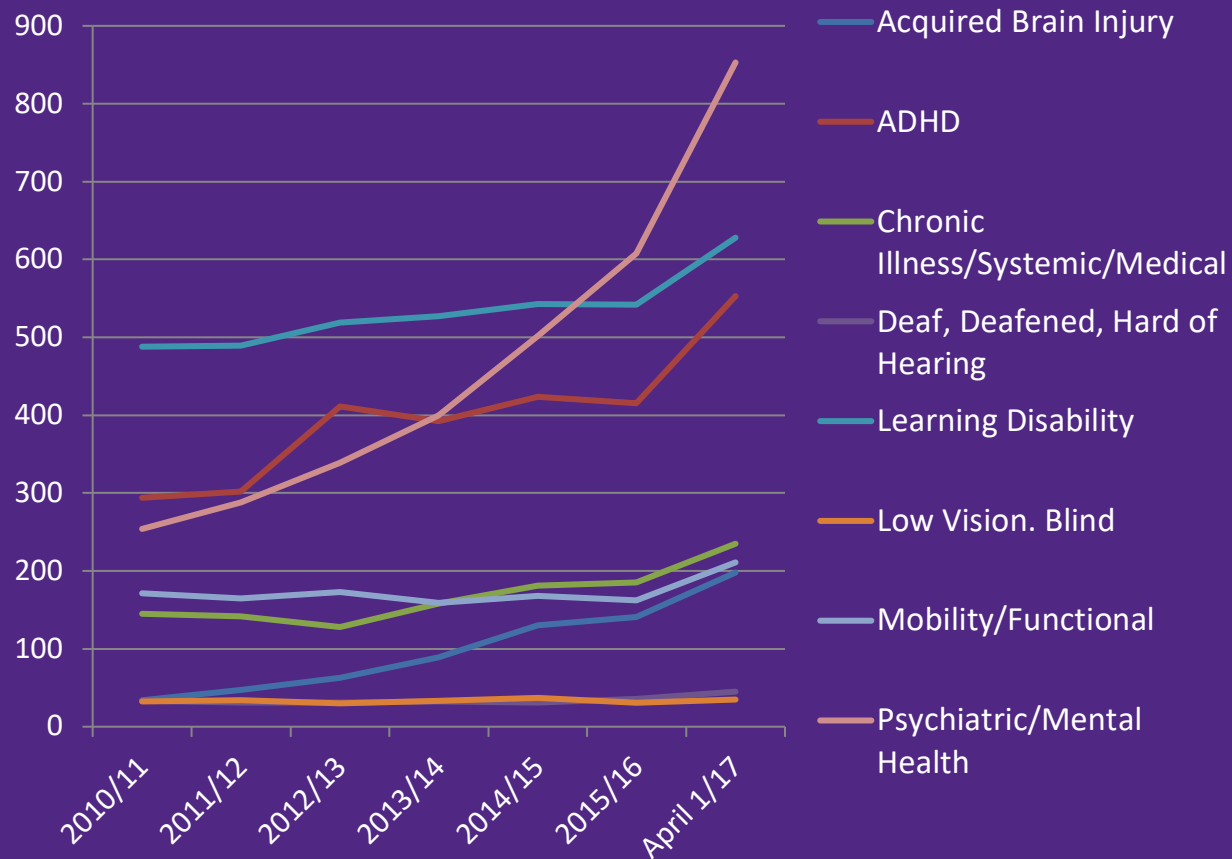
Some Statistics from SSD at Western 2016-17

- **31,000** students enrolled at Western (approx)
- **2950** students registered with SSD (record number!)



Students Seeking Support through SSD for any Type of Disability





Our Mission Statement

Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) is dedicated to enhancing accessibility at Western, which is accomplished by playing a central role in determining academic accommodation for undergraduate and graduate students with disabilities and by providing a variety of support services for students.



Academic Accommodation is arranged by Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) and includes items like exam accommodations and classroom accommodations. Students with disabilities often seek assistance from SSD in arranging Academic Relief with faculty Academic Advisors.

What is an accommodation?

An arrangement that allows a student with a disability a fair opportunity to engage in academic activities and fulfill essential course and program requirements.

Involves a different approach or way of doing something, but still requires that students independently demonstrate the important learning outcomes of their course and program.

An accommodation is not....

...an unfair advantage.

...every recommendation from a psychologist's report.

...a guarantee of success.

The following are examples of : accommodations

- alternative format textbooks (e.g., electronic, Braille)
- accessible versions of powerpoint slides and other documents on course websites
- use of sign-language interpreters in class
- permission to record lectures
- writing exams in a quiet location
- use of extra time when writing exams
- use of assistive technology when writing exams (e.g., a computer equipped with specialized software)
- use of an assistant in labs

From Accommodation to Accessibility

- Accommodation is about ACCESS not SUCCESS
- Accommodation is necessary because parts of our institution (buildings, classes, exams) are not accessible
- What if we didn't need to accommodate (as much) because we were more accessible?

Questions?