

Request for 2025 Funding Services and Activities Fee Committee

BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Disability Resources for Students

Create Date: 01/29/2025

Due Date: 02/07/2025

Submitter Name: Victor Flores

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Department Head Approval: 

Department Head: Bernard Anderson, Sr. AVC

Requested Amount: **\$27,860**

Departmental Information

STUDENT UTILIZATION

The funds that DRS has requested will support several key initiatives: a) Student Outreach Coordinator position - student employee will engage with DRS students to provide information support and mentorship to new and returning DRS students. Assist DRS students with the transition to the and building of relationships with other students, faculty, staff and departments/programs and b) Benefit to the Outreach Coordinator position:

- Student leadership position on campus, working in a professional environment to plan and program events and student-led programming and campus wide retention efforts
- Collaborate with Student Front Desk/Testing Assistants - positions that will support and provide engagement with students, faculty, staff, community and prospective students with information on academic accommodations and access services
- Develop Events and Workshops - educational programs that will deepen the understanding of accessibility, universal design, disability advocacy, and mental and physical issues. This may include; but is not limited to: outreach efforts, tabling (welcome days, student involvement fair; outreach presentations for disability services to pack advisors, faculty, departments, PAWS), guest speakers, disability awareness month, training - disability 101, testing an anxiety and advocacy
- Increase student education and understanding of DRS academic accommodations and accessibility on campus, which will increase the number of students registered for DRS academic accommodations

CORE VALUES/MISSION ALIGNMENT

Goal 1: Increase recruitment, enrollment, retention, and graduation rates with a focus on closing equity gaps - The goal is to increase the number of students that utilize DRS services and encourage participation in DRS and student-led initiatives

- Success Indicator #1: To increase students with disabilities accommodations from 3.5 to 5% of the UW population
- Success Indicator #2: To build programs and services that will provide students with advising, organizational development, personal growth, and referrals to different departments and programs

Goal 2: Enhance student well-being - The goal of the DRS community center is to begin to develop a sense of belonging for students with disabilities and provide them a voice on campus, similar to other UW to come and community spaces on campus - First Gen, CEI, VMRC, a place for where students can engage their peers, build community and create learning opportunities.

- Success Indicator #1: To increase student involvement, advocacy, and engagement with the disability community
- Success Indicator #2: To create a safe and welcoming environment that has the qualities of a home away from home space

Goal 8: Cultivate an accessible, equitable, respectful, inclusive campus culture - The goal is to increase marginalized community/students with disabilities opportunities to develop community and leadership on campus

- Success Indicator #1: To increase student programs and services that will provide student mentorship, welcome and graduation celebrations
- Success Indicator #2: To strengthen persistence to graduation for all student populations

The DRS current academic year has consisted of planning, organizing and providing a community space for students with disabilities. The goal of the community center is to have an open and active space where students can come hang out, rest and relax, use computers and printers, meet with staff, other students or study. We have partnered with other staff members from other campus offices, such as CEI, First Gen fellows and Global Affairs to facilitate the development and promotion of our community center. Our goal is to collaborate with other departments to continue to demonstrate the intersectionality of student users, both DRS and non-DRS students and how they are more than one sole identity. Our hope is to increase our usage by 3 to 5% with the Student Outreach Coordinator reaching out and educating peers, student groups and leaders of services and support DRS provides. The Student Outreach Coordinator will host socials, 1:1 events and workshops to help students with finding their place/home on campus, education of resources and peer support and navigation of the campus.

Last fall, DRS held an open to kick off our year and introduce new students and campus to our services and center. Since then we have assisted and supported 300 registered DRS students and additional 250 visits in our community space assisting students with resources, academic accommodations and support campus staff and faculty. Additionally, during the month of October, DRS was excited to host annual disability awareness month, offering various events, including - DRS Open House, launched the weekly ASL practice group, created opportunity for students to engage with other peers with our Take Care Tuesday, Event Accommodations Workshop, Neurodivergent Study Buddies, introduction of DubNet to create a sense of belonging for students with disabilities, along with other students users.

DRS plans to continue to activate our center with programs and events designed to promote student development and encourage the building of relationships. This spring we have several programs planned to create opportunities to collaborate and educate student learners. Below is a list of events, but not limited to, the following collaborations:

- ASL Practice Group -to learn and practice ASL
- Study Abroad Information Session - with Study Abroad host two informational sessions at MAT 107 for DRS and students interested in traveling abroad
- Testing Anxiety to How to Prepare for Exams - to host workshop to educate students on how to best prepare for exams with proper sleep, nutrition and
- DRS 101 - information tabling and presentation sessions with VMRC, CSI, UWT departments programs faculty and staff to educate on DRS services and support
- Welcome Days - collaborate with CSI, New Student Transitions, etc., on hosting reception for students and families to welcome students to the campus
- Event Accommodation Statement Workshop - information session to ensure campus events are accessible
- Invited by Prof Safarova to be content experts to work with students on Capstone Project on campus accessibility.

STUDENT UTILIZATION (COMPARISON OVER PAST 2 YEARS)

The DRS has seen an increase in student utilization of accommodations and services due to Covid and mental health concerns. We have received a large number of referrals from the Office of Student Advocacy and Support, CARE Team, Psychological and Wellness Services, professors and staff reporting students needing additional support for their disability(ies) and need for academic accommodations and for academic success. We saw a rise and applications and approvals for accommodations. This year has prompted DRS to have our Student Outreach Coordinator to connect with new DRS students and new students to the UW Tacoma to ensure that they have the information and support making the transition to UWT and DRS services. This position will also meet with students for 1:1 check-ins, advisement, mentorship, and how to navigate the campus. Below are some demographics of the students DRS serves:

Gender: Individuals Percentage

- Females: 186 64%
- Males: 97 33%
- Not Specified: 10 3%

Veterans/Military Dependents: 74 25%

Class:

- Freshman 20 7%
- Sophomore 41 14%
- Junior 76 26%
- Senior 126 43%
- Graduate 26 9%
- Nonmatriculated 2 <1%
- Postbaccaluarate 2 <1%

Ethnicity

- Black/African American 41 14%
- American Indian 8 3%
- Asian 32 11%
- Caucasian 142 48%
- Pacific Islander 5 2%
- Hispanic 7 2%
- Non Specified 9 3%
- Blank 49 17%

COLLECTION OF FEEDBACK & IMPROVEMENTS

The DRS has implemented a variety of mechanisms to collect feedback on current programs and services:

- **Survey - DRS** sent a survey to current DRS students to solicit student feedback on programs and services they would like to see offered
- **Sign Sheets -** to record all student, faculty, staff, and community that visited the community center
- **Program and Events -** attendance sheet that records attendees
- **DRS Student Advisory Board -** student representatives that provides feedback and consultation on vision and future programs and services of the DRS community center
- **Introduced a Dubnet Campus Group,** which now has approximately 60 members.

SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

The funds that DRS has requested will support several key initiatives:

- **Student Outreach Coordinator -** student employee will engage with DRS students to provide information, support, mentorship to new and returning DRS students. Assist DRS students with the transition to the and building of relationships with other students. Benefits to Outreach Coordinator position - student leadership position on campus, working in a professional environment to plan and program events and student led programming and campus wide retention efforts
- **Events and Workshops -** educational programs that will deepen the understanding, accessibility, universal design, disability advocacy, and mental and physical issues. This may include, but not limited to, outreach efforts (tabling, welcome days, student involvement fair, outreach presentations disability services to pack advisors, faculty, departments, guest speakers, disability awareness month, trainings - disability 101, testing an anxiety and advocacy
- **Increase student education and understanding of DRS academic accommodations and accessibility on campus**

Staff Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Student Staff ³	DRS Student Outreach Coordinator position that is charged with coordinating outreach efforts to new DRS students, returning students, to assist with transitioning to the campus culture, coordinating workshops and trainings, advocacy, disability services and support major DRS events. Will also serve on the DRS Student Advisory Board E001	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$18,992
	Fringe @ 23%:	\$4,368
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		\$23,360

Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Other Services	To support trainings, workshops and social events, welcome receptions, end of the year celebration, open houses, Disability Awareness Month S001	\$2,000
Non-Food Supplies & Materials	To support marketing and outreach materials, swag, event flyers, training materials, and office supplies S002	\$1,500
Food	To support events, programs (Take Care Tuesdays, Neurodivergent Study Buddies, welcome receptions and end of the year/graduation celebration, Disability Awareness Month) and staff trainings S003	\$1,000
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:		\$4,500

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$23,360
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$4,500
COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:	\$27,860

Supplemental Documents



SAFC 2025-2026 ADDENDUM

Highlights and overview from Student Outreach Coordinator events and programs, outreach efforts.