



UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTHERN  
COLORADO

# Disability Resource Center Annual Report 2022-23



Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services  
University of Northern Colorado



## Section 1 – Mission, Vision, Goals

### **Mission**

In alignment with [Rowing, Not Drifting 2030](#), the Disability Resource Center (DRC) empowers inclusivity across the University of Northern Colorado's (UNC) diverse community by ensuring that all aspects of campus life — learning, working and living — are accessible to UNC students. The DRC puts students first by promoting universally designed environments and facilitating accommodations and providing training, collaboration and innovative programming. The center provides the institution with resources, education and direct services to ensure people with disabilities at UNC have equitable access to all university experiences. By removing access barriers, the DRC creates a sense of belonging and enhances success for the entire Community of Bears.

### **Vision**

The Disability Resource Center leads the campus community in its commitments to recognize disability as a valued aspect of diversity, to embrace access as a matter of equity and justice and to design inclusive environments through innovative resources and programs, leadership and collaboration.

### **Goals**

1. Provide individual accommodations and services to students with disabilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and its amendments and Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
2. Put students first by identifying paths to enhance inclusion and access beyond what is minimally necessary for legal compliance.
3. Provide direct consultation to members of the university community, including faculty, staff and potential students and families, about disability access at UNC.

## Section 2 – Points of Pride

1. The Disability Resource Center served 843 individual students across 11 distinct categories of disability, with more than half of those students having a psychological disability (e.g. depression, anxiety, PTSD). The DRC continues to meet the challenge of the rise in psychological/mental health conditions.
2. The Disability Resource Center embraced technology and provided 132 additional students with the Glean note-taking and audio-recording application as an alternative to peer notes, bringing the total utilization of Glean up to 242 of 250 available licenses through our office.
3. The Disability Resource Center provided testing accommodations to eligible students on 2,036 exams and quizzes this year, providing equal access to the assessment experience for students with disabilities.



## Section 3 – Assessment/Learning Outcomes, June 1, 2022 – May 31, 2023

**Outcome #1:** Students will know their rights and responsibilities as disabled members of the campus community.

**How is it connected to the SAES Strategic Plan Goals?** Goal Two. The division will meet the needs and interests of UNC students and staff promoting a sense of community, engagement, responsibility and co-curricular development while supporting personal health, safety and wellness.

**What are you measuring?** We conducted a student experience survey in spring 2023 that asked about students' knowledge of how to request and access accommodations for their disability. We also analyzed routinely collected student utilization data to measure usage of disability accommodations.

**What is the evidence?** The student experience survey and DRC student data with the goal of seeing a high endorsement of knowledge about accessing disability accommodations and significant service utilization rates.

**What is the result?** On the DRC student experience survey, 73% of students surveyed endorsed feeling confident in how to request accommodations for their disability. The survey results have informed practices intended to improve upon this result in the next evaluation cycle. In the fall 2022 and spring 2023 semesters, 60% of students registered with the DRC requested and utilized disability accommodations in their academic courses, exercising both their right to equal access and their responsibility to self-identify their needed accommodations in each course.

**Outcome #2:** Students will know how to access and utilize resources through the Disability Resource Center.

**How is it connected to the SAES Strategic Plan Goals?** Goal Two. The division will meet the needs and interests of UNC students and staff promoting a sense of community, engagement, responsibility and co-curricular development while supporting personal health, safety and wellness.

**What are you measuring?** We analyzed routinely collected student utilization data to measure usage of various appointment types at the DRC. We conducted a student experience survey in spring 2023 that asked about students' desire and willingness to return to the DRC if they needed support.

**What is the evidence?** The student experience survey and DRC student data with the goal of seeing high utilization of appointments with DRC staff and positive feedback on those experiences.

**What is the result?** Students utilized the following notable appointments at the Disability Resource Center:

- 336 Initial Academic Meetings (students meeting with the DRC for an initial evaluation of their accommodation needs related to disability)
- 201 Academic Follow-Up Meetings (students meeting with the DRC to finalize accommodations and review their rights and responsibilities as a student with disability accommodations)
- 98 Time Management Meetings (auxiliary service to assist disabled students with developing time management skills needed for academic success)



The discrepancy in number between Initial Academic Meetings and Academic Follow-Up Meetings suggests an opportunity for identifying practices to improve student follow through on seeking disability accommodations. On the DRC student experience survey, 100% of students surveyed after their appointments with DRC staff reported they would return to the DRC if they needed support.

**Outcome #3:** Students will know how to effectively advocate for themselves and their disability-related needs.

**How is it connected to the SAES Strategic Plan Goals?** Goal Three. The division will foster a campus climate of acceptance and accountability by preparing all members of the division and the communities we serve to thrive in an intercultural society.

**What are you measuring?** We looked at routinely collected student utilization data to analyze student self-advocacy behaviors. We conducted a student experience survey in spring 2023 that asked about students' comfort level in identifying as a disabled student at UNC.

**What is the evidence?** The student experience survey and DRC student data with the goal of seeing demonstrated self-advocacy behaviors and attitudes among students with disabilities.

**What is the result?** The DRC received 483 online "Request for Accommodations" forms completed by current and incoming UNC students. Of those, 200 completed the accommodation request process to set up disability accommodations in our program. The DRC received 154 requests for housing accommodations related to disability impacts. Of those, 81 received accommodations in their UNC residence for their disability. For those who initially requested any type of accommodation but did not end up receiving accommodation, the most common reasons were that they did not follow through with the request process or did not end up qualifying for accommodation based on disability. On the DRC student experience survey, 93% of students surveyed reported feeling comfortable identifying as a student with a disability at UNC.





## Section 4 – Unit Metrics

