

**University of Wisconsin System**  
**Summary Report of Data on Services for Students with Disabilities**  
**FY2008-09**

**Background**

The UW System Policy on Nondiscrimination on Basis of Disability (14-10) requires UW System institutions to collect data on services provided to students with disabilities. In 1996, a working group of disability services coordinators, in conjunction with UW System Administration staff, developed data collection and reporting guidelines. The guidelines provide procedures for capturing consistent institutional data on services to students with disabilities. The data collection and reporting guidelines were updated in 2003 to reflect changes in services to students with disabilities. Since that time, several of the disability services coordinators indicated a need to update the reporting guidelines.

In 2009, a working group was formed by the disability service coordinators to create a list of recommended changes to the 2003 report form. The proposed changes are intended to:

- reflect the elimination of the Services to Groups Grant by the Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
- add an element that captures the number of veterans being served
- highlight the difference between actual versus budgeted expenditures

If approved, these and additional changes, will be reflected in the 2009-10 report.

The data reported in the attached tables only describe services for students with disabilities that are coordinated or provided by the institutional office designated for those services. For example, totals detailing the number of enrolled students only refer to the number of students with documented disabilities who actually contacted the institutional office of services for students with disabilities. The totals will not include students with disabilities who work directly with faculty members in securing accommodations, work through other institutional programs to secure assistance, or never disclose the existence of their disability.

In the same manner, the cost totals include only costs of the one institutional office designated to coordinate and provide disability-related services. Institutions also expend funds to provide services or accommodations through other departments. Those expenditures are not captured in this report.

## **Data Highlights**

- In 2008-09, 4,946 students who were enrolled at a UW System institution had a disability documented by the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities that made them eligible for services from the institution.
- Of enrolled students with a documented disability, at least 384 or 8% were clients of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, in-state or out-of-state.
- Learning disability was the primary disability category for 1,421, or 29% of the enrolled students. Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD) was next, with 1,174 (24%) of the enrolled students documenting this disability.
- Across the entire UW System, the offices designated to provide services to students with disabilities spent \$3,293,806 on staff, direct services, capital, supplies, or miscellaneous costs. This reflects a \$136,294 or 4% increase from the previous fiscal year.
- The FTE staff by institution, professional and support, in the Offices of Services for Students with Disabilities ranged from 0.0 to 12.0. Three institutions: UW-Madison, UW-Milwaukee and UW-Whitewater had more than 5.0 FTE staff. Three institutions – UW-River Falls, UW-Stout, and UW-Extension – had 1.0 FTE staff or less.
- 59 students (55.88 FTE) required interpreting services in 2008-09. The cost of providing interpreting services was \$1,377,707. The average cost per student was \$23,351 and the average cost per FTE was \$24,655.
- 21 students (14.74 FTE) required captioning/transcription services in 2008-09. The total cost of providing these services was \$290,916.

## **Comparisons with Previous Years**

- Total enrolled clients decreased by 1% in 2008-09.
- Total DVR clients decreased from 476 to 384; the percent of students who were DVR clients decreased from 10% to 8%. This is a significant decrease from 1996-97 when the percentage of DVR clients was 25.45%.
- The number of enrolled students with learning disabilities decreased from 1,503 to 1,421.
- The number of enrolled students with disabilities which are characterized by inattention and hyperactivity-impulsivity (ADD/ADHD) increased from 1,148 to 1,174.

- Enrolled students with psychological disabilities increased from 785 to 809, a 3% increase over 2007-08.
- The number of individuals with mobility impairments decreased from 239 in 2007-08 to 230 in 2008-09. Enrolled students with visual disabilities decreased from 146 to 129, while students with hearing disabilities decreased from 185 to 180.
- The number of students requiring interpreting services increased from 48 in 2007-08 to 59 in 2008-09; the number of FTE students also increased from 43.87 to 55.88. The cost of providing interpreting services also increased, from \$1,084,312 in 2007-08 to \$1,377,707 in 2008-09.
- The number of students requiring captioning/transcription services increased from 20 in 2007-08 to 21 in 2008-09, while the number of FTE students decreased from 15.50 to 14.74. The total cost of providing these services increased from \$276,516 to \$290,916, a 5% increase over 2007-08.
- The number of students using electronic scanning services increased from 217 to 397. The cost of these services increased by 3% from \$71,172 in 2007-08 to \$73,184 in 2008-09.
- Total students using note taking services decreased from 1,206 in 2007-08 to 902 in 2008-09. The associated costs of these services decreased from \$117,583 in 2007-08 to \$112,950 in 2008-09.
- Total students using reading/taping services increased from 190 to 203. The associated costs decreased from \$24,537 in 2007-08 to \$13,635 in 2008-09.
- Total students using alternative testing decreased from 1,465 in 2007-08 to 1,462 in 2008-09. The associated costs increased from \$64,749 to \$83,074.
- Total costs increased from \$5,319,319 in 2007-08 to \$5,703,566 in 2008-09, reflecting an increase in the costs associated with providing services.