

# EQUAL ACCESS TIPS FOR STUDENTS with DISABILITIES

*Equal Access = Essential for some. Useful for all.*

A Partnership between Student Accessibility Services and the Digital Accessibility Team

## TIP #1: BE PROACTIVE!

Work ahead with anything relating to accessibility or accommodations.



Haven't met with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) yet? Set an appointment (*virtual or in-person*) and gather/submit all appropriate documentation beforehand. Learn the process at [www.kent.edu/sas](http://www.kent.edu/sas).



Let SAS know what accommodations you'll use this semester by scheduling your exams in the testing center, uploading e-text receipts and confirming note-taker requests (as applicable to your situation).



Make a habit of **OPENING EVERY EMAIL** you receive from Student Accessibility Services. You'll see "sas@kent.edu" or "sasStudent@kent.edu" in the "from" line, plus we'll have "**ALERT**" in the subject line if it's time-sensitive or important info. We're here to empower you, but we can't act on your behalf until we've connected with you.

## TIP #3: TELL US ABOUT IT!

The more we know, the better we can empower you. It's not tattling, it's quality assurance!



As a Golden Flash, we want you to be a team player and a lifelong, humble learner. But we never want you to "suffer in silence"! If apps, websites or other course materials aren't accessible/usable for you or you're struggling to get accommodations fulfilled, **TELL US!** Email [EqualAccess@kent.edu](mailto:EqualAccess@kent.edu).



You have conversations and experiences that are unique to you. Please report back! As a student with a disability, if you feel empowered and supported after a convo with a prof or friend, **TELL US!** If you're struggling or feel discouraged after a specific interaction, **TELL US!** The more we know, the more we can focus our efforts.



Spread the word about the services that Equal Access provides. Tell others so they will **TELL US!** We're here to provide equally effective access to all students, regardless of SAS status.

## TIP #2: KNOW YOUR STUFF!

Learn about the tech and support that is available to you. Choose what tools you'll use and become an expert in them.



**REVIEW AND RESEARCH** your approved accommodations and compare them to your upcoming classes each semester. **Your academic load will change and your needs will change.** You have the right to equally effective access to all materials related to your higher education - **but YOU have to know your starting point before WE can get you to the finish line. Don't put your accessibility on autopilot!**



If you qualify for testing services accommodations, you may take any test in the **SAS TESTING CENTER** in University Libraries. Two options: research and practice with the tech we have installed, or let us know what you'd like to use and we'll work to have it installed and ready for you.



The Digital Accessibility team is here to help you choose and master the best tech for your accessibility needs. Just starting with Assistive Technology? We'll talk you through it. Your tech keeps crashing? We'll help you find the best browser/machine/software combination. Email [EqualAccess@kent.edu](mailto:EqualAccess@kent.edu) to ask a question or schedule a consultation.

## TIP #4: PRACTICE EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE!

Be discerning when you encounter a stressful situation. Ask yourself: "Is this an 'every college student' situation or a 'college student with a disability' situation?"



**EXAMPLE:** Feeling significant anxiety before an exam.

**"Every college student" stress** is whether I studied and slept enough, if the format of the exam fits my academic strengths or weaknesses, and trying to resolve whatever physical symptoms I have from the anxiety.

**POSSIBLE SOLUTION:** Check out Kent State's [mental health resources](#) or share your emotions with your RA or a friend.



**"Related to my disability" stress** is remembering that during your last exam the extra time in Blackboard /Canvas didn't work.

**POSSIBLE SOLUTION:** Send a quick follow-up email to SAS and your professor to remind them of the trouble last time and ask if there's anything you can do to make sure it works this time.

**Practicing discernment before reaching out will help you go to the right people and places for support.**

**For questions or scheduling a one-on-one or team consultation, email**

**[EqualAccess@kent.edu](mailto:EqualAccess@kent.edu)**