

The Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) at Hampshire College works to give all students an equal opportunity to succeed by providing reasonable accommodations to those with disabilities. OARS promotes a social model that engages the entire community in creating an accessible campus by applying the principles of Universal Design. OARS strives to foster an environment that supports and encourages students to work toward informed self-advocacy, develop independence, and cultivate a level of personal growth to maximize their own potential.

We work with more than 400 Hampshire students each year to provide academic, residential, and cocurricular accommodations, programming, and support. OARS brings together students, faculty, and other Hampshire offices to make accommodations and Inclusive Design happen. We encourage students to use our office as a resource and to come see us early and often.

WHERE & WHEN

Where

The Office of Accessibility Resources and Services is located in the Lemelson building with Central Records and the Center for Academic Support and Advising (CASA). Here you may pick up accommodation letters for your courses and consult with us about accessibility-related concerns at any time throughout the year. Visit hamp.it/FindAccess.

When

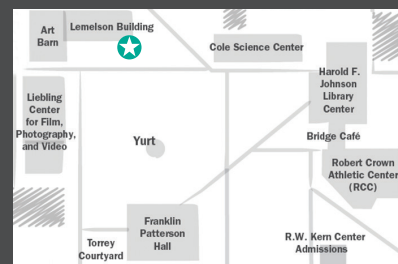
You may come in or call to schedule an appointment, at 413.559.5498.

Monday–Friday: 8:30 A.M.–4:30 P.M.

Drop-in on Friday: 1–3 P.M.

OARS and HLP help is also provided in the Library Knowledge Commons. For drop-in hours and partner program information, visit hamp.it/KC.

OARS.hampshire.edu




HAMPSHIRE SUPPORT

Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS)

 Hampshire College

OARS | 893 West Street Amherst, MA 01002 | 413.559.5498 | OARS@hampshire.edu





ABOUT 30 PERCENT of Hampshire students have formally disclosed a disability and are eligible for accommodation. However, a student does not need to identify as having a disability, nor have a formal diagnosis, in order to consult with OARS while a student at Hampshire. There are many reasons to work with us: through the Holistic Learning Program or with the CORAL student initiative, for example. Accommodations and OARS programming are designed to help students work toward their potential in the context of a rigorous academic environment. We highly encourage prospective students to chat with a member of our staff in order to learn whether our support services and the Hampshire curriculum is a good fit for your accessibility needs. For more prospective student resources about the transition to Hampshire, please visit: hamp.it/NewToHampAccess

SUPPORT

What Are Accommodations?

Accommodations are how we address barriers you face because of your disability when environments are not accessible by design. If you had a 504 plan or an IEP in high school or need an element of accessibility in your residential space, consult early with OARS to learn about what accommodations are available for you.

Requesting Accommodations

OARS staff are happy to explain the disclosure process and other options at any time.

Requesting accommodations is a simple, three-step process:

- 1 Complete a self-report.** This is an online form that enables you to explain your perspective and experience.
- 2 Provide supporting documentation.** A relevant medical professional can complete our form for care providers or can follow our documentation guidelines to provide necessary documentation in another format.
- 3 Connect with OARS.** Staff will be in touch about approved accommodations, how to use them effectively, and ways to access other supports and services. Your questions are always welcome throughout the disclosure procedures.

Housing-based Accommodations

OARS works closely with the Housing Operations Office (HOO) to approve and implement accommodations in the residential setting. Accommodations are considered each year as students are placed. For timelines and details, please visit hamp.it/HousingAccess.

Five College Accommodations

Accommodations approved at Hampshire will be recognized on the other Five College campuses, but may be administered differently at Mount Holyoke, Smith, Amherst, or UMass. Students taking a Five College course for the first time should meet with OARS staff to learn about the process for using accommodations on another campus and also meet directly with relevant accommodation-support offices at the course's host campus. To learn more, visit hamp.it/5CollegeAccess.

Academic Technology

Hampshire maintains licenses, memberships, and hardware to support text-to-speech, speech-to-text, and other alternative-format media. Students can consult with OARS and Instructional Technology staff throughout the year. To learn more, visit hamp.it/AccessIT.

STAFF



Aaron Ferguson | Director, OARS

Aaron began as the director of accessibility resources and Services in the summer of 2015. He holds an MEd in higher education and student affairs from the University of Vermont and has worked in accessibility services since 2003.

Aaron's professional background includes experience as an academic coach and advisor, disability counselor, outdoor-education specialist, and rowing coach.



David Paquette | Assistant, OARS

David has been with OARS since 2016 and has been working in accessibility services and vocational rehabilitation since 2011. He splits his time at Hampshire between OARS and Housing Operations.

David holds a degree in human resources from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. In his free time, he plays drums for a number of local bands and enjoys exploring the western Mass wilderness.



Holistic Learning
PROGRAM



KNOWLEDGE
COMMONS

Holistic Learning Program

The Holistic Learning Program (HLP) responds to your desire for academic self-improvement. As a partner in the library Knowledge Commons, HLP offers coaching, online self-help resources, and programming with the goal of supporting students to reach their potential.

Coaching is available to develop skills and strategies by appointment or by dropping in, or students can check out resources on our toolbox, at hamp.it/HLP.