


A person is writing in a notebook with a green tab labeled "ARTS". A vase of yellow flowers sits on the desk next to a laptop. The background is blurred, showing a person in a blue shirt.

HAMPSHIRE SUPPORT

Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS)

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 200 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.



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.



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.

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



Dr. Madeline L. Peters (She/Her)

Dr. Madeline L. Peters started working at Hampshire in October 2019. Dr. Peters has worked in the field of disability studies since 1978, advocating for the rights and well beings of disabled students in higher education. She is a local facilitator who has lead workshops and classes on ableism, Universal Design, and improving the lives of students affected by ableism. She is a contributor in *Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice*, and the editor of the “Ableism” sections in *Readings for Diversity and Social Justice*. An accommodation expert, advocate, and social justice educator, Dr. Peters has won many local and national lawsuits advocating on behalf of people with disabilities in creating equal access. She is friendly, wise in her knowledge of local supports, and well-versed in getting students access to their needs through innovative solutions.



Cat/Milo Bezark (They/Them)

Milo graduated from Hampshire College in 2018 and has spent the past two years working at Hampshire in the Office of Accessibility. Cat works with members of the campus community to support their holistic wellness and growth by organizing, designing, and facilitating workshops, collaboration/study spaces, and one-to-one consultations. As a member of The Community Commons, they partner with programs across the campus to provide support ranging from general resources to focused help with academic planning and navigation. While at Hampshire, Milo concentrated in education, documentary art-making, and social justice, specifically focusing on supporting young people documenting themselves through art for the sake of themselves, their communities, and the rest of us sharing their world.



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.

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).

When

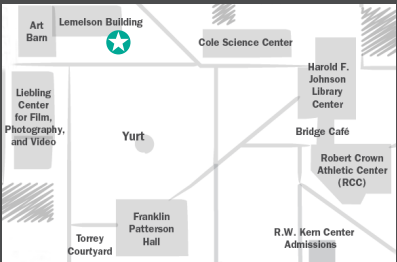
You may come in or call to schedule an appointment, at 413.559.5498.

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 College

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