

# THE OFFICE OF ACCESSIBILITY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 1, FALL 2021

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

JESSICA DEFAGO, M.A.

### Welcome to the Fall 2021 semester at The University of Akron

The staff in the Office of Accessibility extends a sincere welcome to all students registered with us. We are so glad you are here.

The University of Akron has so much to offer. You are an important and valued member of The University of Akron community. As you take advantage of all the resources UA has to offer, take time to meet new people and explore all that our campus has to offer.

The University of Akron works diligently to make your college experience one that you will remember fondly.

The friends you will make here will be your colleagues in the future. Your professors become mentors, and the campus becomes your new home. I'm excited for each of you to take advantage of all The University of Akron has to offer.

We are excited you chose The University of Akron!

Let's continue to Rise Together!!

Sincerely,

Jessica DeFago, Director

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## TUTORING OPPORTUNITIES

Tutoring opportunities are available through the Office of Academic and Retention Support (OARS) for General Education classes as well as Math, Science, Engineering, and Medical geared courses. Please call (330) 972-7760 or email [STEM@uakron.edu](mailto:STEM@uakron.edu). You can also ask your Disability Specialist for a current tutoring schedule or for more information.



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ON HANDSHAKE

Are you seeking internship, co-op, or job opportunities? Check out The University of Akron's networking and job board: [Handshake](#).

For assistance with applying including a resume review, cover letter review, mock interview and more, students can contact Career Services at 330.972.7747 or [career@uakron.edu](mailto:career@uakron.edu).

## PEER MENTORING NOW AVAILABLE!

The Office of Accessibility's PASS program is excited to be able to offer peer mentoring appointments for students registered with the Office of Accessibility!

The PASS program offers a peer mentorship program to assist students with academic skills. Students can schedule 30-minute regular appointments with vetted peer mentors specializing in upper-level college skills, such as prioritizing tasks, studying skills, time management, and organization.

To schedule a peer mentoring appointment, email us at [access@uakron.edu](mailto:access@uakron.edu).



## COVID-19 AWARENESS

The following information provides guidance if you feel unwell, have been exposed to COVID-19, or if someone has disclosed to you that they have COVID or have been exposed to COVID. To protect the health and wellness of the campus community, please follow updated guidance provided on the University's COVID-19 webpage: [uakron.edu/return-to-campus/](http://uakron.edu/return-to-campus/). The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major effect on our lives, including home, school, work and personal interactions. Many of us are facing challenges that can be overwhelming and stressful. Learning how to cope with stress in a healthy way will help you become more resilient and able to care for yourself and others in a positive manner. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers a robust COVID-related stress management toolkit.

### COLLEGE2CAREERS

#### What is Ohio College2Careers?

OOD is the state agency that helps individuals with disabilities obtain, and retain employment and provide career development services. OOD serves individuals with physical, intellectual, sensory, and mental health disabilities. This new partnership is between Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, Ohio's state college and university system, including The University of Akron, and Ohio businesses. This new partnership includes a C2C counselor located at 15 universities statewide.

#### What a C2C Counselor can provide to eligible UA students:

- Provide additional supports for UA students with disabilities who are eligible for OOD services.
- Career exploration & career counseling
- Assistance navigating Ohio Means Jobs resources
- Assistive technology
- Internships & employment resources
- Connection to an expansive employer partner network

Contact UA's C2C counselor, Mara Byers, at:  
Email: [Mara.Byers@ood.ohio.gov](mailto:Mara.Byers@ood.ohio.gov)  
Phone: 330-972-2163



### NEW - REQUEST APPOINTMENT FEATURE IN STARS

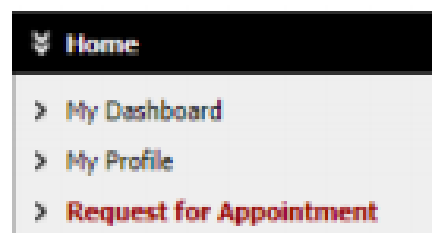
Students registered with the Office of Accessibility are now able to request appointments with their Disability Specialist in STARS!

To request an appointment:

1. Log in to [STARS](#).
2. On your dashboard, click on "Request for Appointment" under the "Home" tab.
3. Complete the Appointment Request Form
4. After submitting your request, an Office of Accessibility staff member will follow up with you via email to confirm your appointment.

Students are also still able to schedule appointments by calling (330-972-7928) or emailing ([access@uakron.edu](mailto:access@uakron.edu)).

For more detailed instructions regarding how to request an appointment, view our online user guide: [How to Request an Appointment](#).



## STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Need to get in touch with your Disability Specialist or an OA staff member? Please see their contact information below!  
 Not sure who your Disability Specialist is? Check in STARS for your Primary Advisor, or give us a call at 330-972-7928.

**Jessica DeFago** Director  
[jld4@uakron.edu](mailto:jld4@uakron.edu)

**Tess Miller** Disability Specialist  
[tmiller1@uakron.edu](mailto:tmiller1@uakron.edu)

**Ashley Haas** Disability Specialist  
[ahaas@uakron.edu](mailto:ahaas@uakron.edu)

**Heather Rose** Disability Specialist  
[hrose@uakron.edu](mailto:hrose@uakron.edu)

**Leigh Sveda** Adaptive Technology & Service Coordinator  
[lab10@uakron.edu](mailto:lab10@uakron.edu)

**Natalie Martin** Office Manager & Testing Coordinator  
[nab87@uakron.edu](mailto:nab87@uakron.edu)

**Rachael Kosar** Captioning & Service Coordinator  
[rkk11@uakron.edu](mailto:rkk11@uakron.edu)

**Office Information** Front Desk: 330-972-7928  
 Office Email: [access@uakron.edu](mailto:access@uakron.edu)

### SUGGESTION BOX

What would you like see in future issues of the Office of Accessibility Newsletter? Send your ideas to [rkk11@uakron.edu](mailto:rkk11@uakron.edu).



### OFFICE INFO

**Office of Accessibility**  
 Simmons Hall 105  
 The University of Akron  
 Akron, Ohio 44325-6213

Hours:  
 Fall/Spring: M-F 8AM-5PM  
 Summer: M-F 8AM-4:30PM

Phone: 330-972-7928  
 E-mail: [access@uakron.edu](mailto:access@uakron.edu)

### *self advocacy* SKILLS

COMMUNICATE  
WITH YOUR  
PROFESSORS

BE  
CONFIDENT

GET TO KNOW  
YOURSELF

SET  
GOALS

KNOW YOUR  
RIGHTS

GET  
INVOLVED

KNOW YOUR  
RESOURCES

FIND A  
COMMUNITY

ASK FOR  
HELP

CELEBRATE  
YOUR  
SUCCESSSES

### E-TUTORING

eTutoring is a free service for all currently enrolled undergraduate students at The University of Akron. To access eTutoring, visit: [etutoringonline.org](http://etutoringonline.org).

