

# OFFICE OF ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

## FACULTY NEWSLETTER

*Fall 2023 Volume 1*

*St. Mary's College of Maryland*

Welcome to the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) at St. Mary's College of Maryland. OAS works with the campus community to promote inclusive accessibility practices across campus.

Our office ensures individuals who self-identify accommodation needs are heard and respected.

Interim Director of Accessibility Services, Dr. Christine Collins, wants to ensure the office is working collaboratively with the campus community to make certain individuals on campus with disabilities feel valued.

OAS has two new staff members, Dr. Christine Collins (Interim Director of Accessibility Services and Ms. Joyce Knott, Office Staff member). We thank you all for your patience through this transition.



## Welcome Back !

OAS is under the leadership of Dr. Dereck Rovaris, Vice President of Equity and Strategic Initiatives. We are in Glendening Hall, 2nd floor – 253 & 254.

### UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING (UDL)

UDL is a framework that aims to improve and optimize the way students learn by reducing barriers and providing multiple options for inclusive and accessible learning. This design is about guiding the development of flexible learning environments to accommodate to individual learning differences. Given the structure of higher education, accessibility support services are often overwhelmed with individual requests that could be resolved in the classroom using UDL techniques. UDL practices can be included in the classroom by using accessible softwares, multimedia support, and shared access technologies. Conducting accessibility checks on existing softwares and including multiple ways of accessing information also allows for students to be more engaged. With multiple ways to learn, practice, engage, and demonstrate understanding, UDL benefits students with diagnosed and undiagnosed disabilities as well as everyone in the classroom.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

**Modification of attendance-** It is recommended to consider only 2 days beyond your attendance policy. We will work directly with you and your student if their need exceeds the suggested benchmark.

**Modification of Assignment Deadlines-** You should consider a 24 to 48-hour window. If a student should need beyond that amount of time, we will work with you and the student directly.

**Testing** will occur Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Students are asked to submit their requests for testing accommodations 7 days before their scheduled exam date to ensure space and availability. Due to limited staffing, we ask students with night classes to work with their faculty and our office to test the following day (when possible). We ask faculty to update their testing exams via Accommodate.

## CONTACT US



[\(240\) 895-2250](tel:(240)895-2250)



[ADASUPPORT@SMCM.EDU](mailto:ADASUPPORT@SMCM.EDU)



GLENDENING HALL,  
STE. 253 & 254



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FOR ADA CONCERNS, PLEASE CONTACT CHRISTINE COLLINS, ADA COORDINATOR AT [CMCOLLINS@SMCM.EDU](mailto:CMCOLLINS@SMCM.EDU).

FOR TITLE IX CONCERNS, PLEASE CONTACT MICHELLE CARTER, TITLE IX COORDINATOR AT [MMCARTER@SMCM.EDU](mailto:MMCARTER@SMCM.EDU).