

Graduate Students with Disabilities at UConn

Survey Results

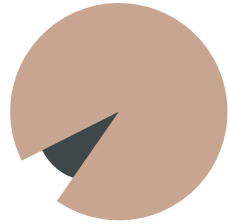
The UConn graduate school administered an anonymous survey to grad students with disabilities during spring 2020 and summer 2021. 73 individuals completed the survey. Findings follow.



Existing Knowledge

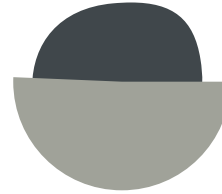
Out of 73 responses:

95% (69)



Individuals understood what a disability is.

51% (37)

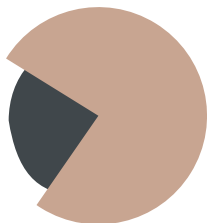


Individuals understood what reasonable accommodations were and how they applied in graduate school.

What Disabled Grads Want

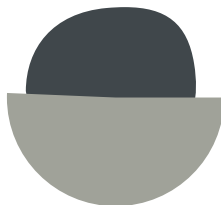
Out of 73 responses:

74% (54)



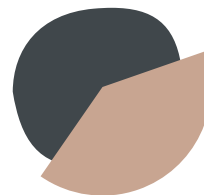
Individuals indicated **desire to learn** about the possibility of receiving accommodations in academic jobs.

53% (39)



Individuals wanted a **non-clinical support group** or community to connect with other graduate students with disabilities.

40% (29)

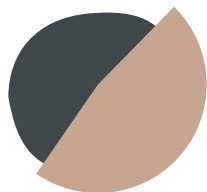


Individuals wanted a **blog or forum to connect** with other graduate students with disabilities.

What Disabled Grads Want

Out of 73 responses:

48% (35)



Individuals wished to have **disability awareness and accessibility events** for academic departments.

46% (34)



Individuals wished to have **additional academic/skill resources**, including self-advocacy workshops.

Disclosure

50%



Exactly half of students (29) self-disclosed their disability to their advisor, versus those who did not (29).

8 students disclosed their disability to their advisor, but not the accommodations they receive.

16 students did not self-disclose because they felt the advisor did not need to know.

Use of CSD

Of students who did not register with CSD:

- 28% did not due to fear of **stigma** or **discrimination** and
- 50% did not because they were unclear on the accommodations process or **if it applied to them.**

Stigma and Discrimination

- Did not feel deserving of accommodations/guilt/embarrassed
- Fear of discrimination

Unaware of Resources

- Unaware of services for students with disabilities
- Did not realize they were eligible for services
- Did not know how to register
- Did not know how accommodations applied to graduate school

Pandemic Access Needs in Coursework/Research

Disabled grads listed unique needs during the pandemic/remote instruction.

- Accessible versions of research texts
- Appropriate breaks for long (3-hour) classes
- Explicit instruction to use LMS
- Captions for online classes
- Access to class recordings
- Option to leave camera off during class
- Guidance on how to stay focused during remote learning and online coaching

Pandemic Needs in General

Disabled grads listed unique needs during the pandemic/remote instruction.

What they need to succeed:

- Reduced course loads
- Extended time due to screen/eye fatigue
- Explanation of accommodations for remote learning
- More assistance communicating with faculty
- Increased access to mental health services
- Knowledge of what accommodations are available to grads

Opportunities for community building:

- A community in which to work
- A community of graduate students with disabilities

Thanks



Do you have any questions?

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