



# The Office of Accessibility Newsletter

## Make Plans for a Successful Semester!

Welcome to the Fall 2019 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. From our world-class teaching faculty, to an ever growing green campus, to our many clubs and organizations—UA has it all!

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 tirelessly 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 challenge each of you to take advantage of all The University of Akron has to offer.

We are excited you chose The University of Akron!

Kindest regards,

Kelly Kulick  
Director

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The Office of Accessibility is so excited to kick off another great academic year here at The University of Akron! We are excited to help you all achieve your post-secondary goals throughout your time here at UA!

This edition of The Office of Accessibility Newsletter is geared toward helping you succeed both academically and socially here at UA! Check out our quick tips and information about upcoming events in this issue.



The University of Akron  
Office of Accessibility

### Student Accessibility Group (SAG)

Are you a student with a disability interested in joining a community of students with disabilities at UA? If you answered yes, please join us for our first meeting of the Student Accessibility Group (SAG) to discuss to goals and mission of SAG. **The first meeting will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 11th from 6-8PM in the Student Union room 316.**

## Peer Assistance and Support For Success (PASS) Fall Programming

Check out the Office of Accessibility's PASS Fall 2019 programming below!

### Coping Skills at College Workshop:

Feeling overwhelmed? Stressed? The Office of Accessibility, Student Recreation and Wellness Services, and The Counseling & Testing Center will be sponsoring a Coping Skills at College Workshop on **Friday, September 20, 2019 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.** in Studio A of the Recreation Center. The Coping Skills at College Workshop seeks to help students recognize and build essential coping skills. The workshop is open to ALL University of Akron students and is FREE! It will teach essential coping skills to use during those busy and stressful times; such as guided meditation, mindfulness, progressive muscle relaxation, and yoga. Students will also be making aromatherapy rice bags to take with them. The workshop is part of the Office of Accessibility's Peer Assistance and Support For Success (PASS) program that will be returning to the Office of Accessibility this Fall. If you are interested in attending the Coping Skills at College Workshop or have questions concerning the event, please contact Ashley Haas, Disability Specialist and PASS Coordinator in the Office of Accessibility, at [ahaas@uakron.edu](mailto:ahaas@uakron.edu). This event is limited to the first 35 respondents. **RSVPs should be received by 9/18/19 at 5:00 p.m.** Bringing your own Yoga mat is encouraged but not required. Please be on the lookout for future events!

### Social Skills for the College Student Workshop:

Calling all students who are interested in refining their social skills, meeting new friends, and participating in a **free** group lunch outing! The Office of Accessibility and graduate students from UA's Speech-Language Pathology master's program will be co-sponsoring a fun, casual, and interactive workshop focused on social skills for the college student. Students will have the opportunity to learn tips and tricks toward improving their interactions with both peers and adults, and they will be able practice these skills in a comfortable setting. The group will first meet in The Jacobson Honors Common Room 98, then venture to Rob's Dining Hall to get to know each other and socialize over lunch. The workshop will occur on **October 11, 2019 from 1-3 p.m.** The Social Skills for the College Student Workshop is part of the Office of Accessibility's Peer Assistance and Support For Success (PASS) Fall programming. **Please RSVP to Ashley Haas, Disability Specialist and PASS Coordinator in the Office of Accessibility, at [ahaas@uakron.edu](mailto:ahaas@uakron.edu) by 10/9/19 at 5:00 p.m.** Come join us!

### De-Stress Event:

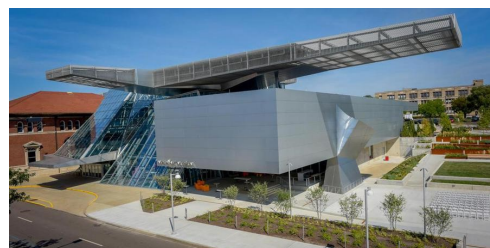
Do finals have you feeling down? Come de-stress with us! The Office of Accessibility and The Counseling & Testing Center will be co-sponsoring a De-Stress Event held in the Trapezoid/International Lounge of the Student Union on **Thursday December 5, 2019 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** University of Akron students will receive a goody bag with items to help them de-stress as they prepare for finals. Information regarding The Counseling & Testing Center's services will also be available. Students will have the opportunity to hang out, de-stress, and help color a mandala of their choice. Goody bags are first come, first serve for the first 150 students. In the event all bags are given out prior to the end of the event, the activity will remain open. The De-Stress Event is part of the Office of Accessibility's Peer Assistance and Support For Success (PASS) Fall programming. Questions concerning the event can be directed to Ashley Haas, Disability Specialist and PASS Coordinator in the Office of Accessibility, at [ahaas@uakron.edu](mailto:ahaas@uakron.edu). Be on the lookout for Spring events!



## FREE Admission to Akron Art Museum

You read that right! Admission to the Akron Art Museum is FREE until 8/23/2020 for University of Akron students! Your Zip Card serves as your FREE ticket to get in to the Akron Art Museum. For more information about the Akron Art Museum, visit

[akronartmuseum.org](http://akronartmuseum.org).



# Back to School Checklist

- SCHEDULE YOUR CLASSES AND CONTACT YOUR ACADEMIC ADVISOR WITH ANY SCHEDULING QUESTIONS
- MEET WITH YOUR DISABILITY SPECIALIST
- REQUEST YOUR ACCOMMODATIONS
- PLAN A ROUTE TO YOUR CLASSES
- BUY BOOKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES
- GET YOUR PARKING PASS
- CHECK ON YOUR FINANCIAL AID
- STAY ON TOP OF YOUR AKRON EMAIL
- GET INVOLVED BY JOINING A CLUB ONCAMPUS THROUGH ROO CONNECT
- READ THE SYLLABI FOR ALL YOUR CLASSES
- BUY A PLANNER AND ADD IMPORTANT DATES
- CREATE A STUDY SCHEDULE THAT WORKS FOR YOU
- SET GOALS FOR THE SEMESTER
- SMILE!

HERE ARE SOME OF ZIPPY'S TIPS ON HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE UPCOMING SEMESTER!



## Need to Drop a Class?

- Students must drop a class within 14 days to receive a refund. Students will receive a 100% refund during first two weeks of the new semester if they need to drop a class.
- After the first two weeks of the semester are over, no refunds will be given.

### OA Quick Tip #1:

Read through your syllabi thoroughly, and add any due dates/deadlines to your planner! Be sure to schedule time to study for upcoming tests!



# ROOCONNECT

YOUR CONNECTION TO **CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT**

## RooConnect is UA's largest online program for finding student organizations and campus events.

It's your connection to campus engagement! With over 340 registered student organizations, and hundreds of campus events, you need to check out RooConnect today!

The SOuRCe is offering workshops where they will cover the basics of what you need to know in order to make the most out of RooConnect as a UA student. Workshops will be held in September. Dates, times, and locations can be found on RooConnect.

## How to Get Started!

- Visit RooConnect online through your Student Center on MyAkron and login with your UANet ID and password.
- Once logged in, you can start to search for campus events by clicking the "Events" tab
- Search for events by interest area or alphabetically
- RSVP for events that ask for one
- Link a RooConnect event to your personal calendar so you don't forget
- Bring a friend to the event with you!

Questions? Contact the SOuRCe ([source@uakron.edu](mailto:source@uakron.edu)) for more information. We are located in the Jean Hower Taber Student Union across from the Roo Lounge.

## Discover Downtown Akron on a FREE Walking Tour!

The Downtown Akron Partnership, of which UA is a member, is offering FREE walking tours to help UA students discover all there is to do and see in downtown Akron.

Each tour will include a special treat from one downtown business.

Reserve your spot by emailing [kfetter@downtownakron.com](mailto:kfetter@downtownakron.com).

- September 6th, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- October 4th, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- November 1st, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

There is also an explore your downtown event every third Thursday of the month from 4-8 p.m. You can find out more information by visiting <https://www.downtownakron.com/explore/3rd-thursday>.



## Important Reminders

### Testing in The Office of Accessibility, Counseling & Testing Center and CBA&E:

- ◆ If you have an alternative testing accommodation and are testing in the OA or the Counseling and Testing Center, please remember to schedule your test at least **4 business days** prior to the day you would like to take the test. Tests can be scheduled by the student through the STARS website, <https://andes.accessiblelearning.com/Akron/>, under the Alternative Testing tab. For assistance in scheduling tests, please contact our office.
- ◆ If you are taking a test in the Computer Based Assessment and Evaluation center, you must confirm with the instructor at the beginning of the semester that you will be using your exam accommodations. You will also need to provide CBA&E with a copy of your accommodation letter. Accommodation letters may be printed from STARS.

### Request your accommodations:

- ◆ Make sure you request your accommodations as soon as possible to ensure your accommodations are provided when you need them.
- ◆ If you need help requesting your accommodations, call the Office of Accessibility at 330.972.7928 or stop in to Simmons Hall 105.
- ◆ If you receive Alternative Format for your texts, sign the AT Contract in STARS and show proof of purchase for alternative media.

### Notetaking accommodations:

- ◆ If you are utilizing notetakers as an accommodation this semester, please remember to only request notetakers for courses in which they will be needed. This does not include out of classroom experiences (labs, online, recitations, etc.). Please contact the Notetaker Coordinator at [tmiller1@uakron.edu](mailto:tmiller1@uakron.edu) if you need assistance.

### Scheduling in the Office of Accessibility

- ◆ The start of the semester is very busy for the OA. Please schedule appointments early and **show up to your scheduled appointments on time**.
- ◆ **Students arriving more than 15 minutes late to appointments and/or tests will likely be asked to reschedule.**

### Important Dates

**November 4, 2019**  
Spring 2020  
registration begins

**November 28-Dec. 1, 2019**  
Thanksgiving Recess

**December 8, 2019**  
Final Instructional  
Day for Fall 2019  
classes

**December 9-15, 2019**  
Finals Week

**December 13, 2019**  
OA Equipment Due

**December 17, 2019**  
Final Grades Due

### OA Quick Tip #2:

Make time to meet with your instructors during their office hours to ask questions! Instructors will appreciate you taking extra step!

## Commuter Mingle — free donuts, coffee & more!

Do you walk, ride, or drive to campus each day? Then, YOU should join us for our monthly Commuter Mingle events!

The Office of Off-Campus Living & Commuter Resources invites you to come mingle with other UA commuter students on the 1st consecutive Tuesday & Wednesday of the month for FREE donuts, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and giveaways! There will also be games, coloring, and crafts available!

When: 8:30-11:00 am the first Tuesday/Wednesday of the month

- September 3rd & 4th
- October 1st & 2nd
- November 5th & 6th

Where: Simmons Hall - Lobby \*\*outside if weather permits

Why: Did we mention free donuts and coffee/hot chocolate?



Learn more about this office and resources at Off-Campus Living online: <https://www.uakron.edu/offcampus/>.



## Meet the OA Staff!

### **Kathleen (Kelly) Kulick, M.Ed.,CRC**

Kathleen (Kelly) Kulick is the Director for the Office of Accessibility. Kelly has 20+ years of experience working with students with disabilities in higher education. Fifteen years were spent at the Stark Campus of Kent State University where Kelly served as their Disability Coordinator.

Kelly previously served as the Director of the T.H.E.M.E. (Transitioning to Higher Education: Mentoring to Employment) Project at Stark State College. The mission of THEME was to augment services supplied by Stark State's Disability Support Services Office to at-risk students with disabilities. During the two years as Director, the THEME Office had an 86% retention rate with students accessing services through THEME.

Kelly earned both her Undergraduate and Master's degrees from Kent State University and is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. Kelly has worked extensively with the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation in Akron as well as other community agencies that work with individuals with disabilities. Kelly enjoys being part of The University of Akron family.

### **Jessica DeFago, M.A.**

Jessica is the Associate Director whose area of specialty is working with students with learning disabilities and ADHD. An alumna of The University of Akron, Jessica has a Master's Degree in Higher Education Administration. Jessica is dedicated to helping students learn how to navigate and succeed in higher education through developing study skills and self-advocacy skills. Jessica also works closely with University students, faculty, staff and area high schools through department outreaches and educational opportunities.

### **Tess Miller, M.Ed., CRC**

Tess is a Disability Specialist and Service Coordinator for the Office of Accessibility. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from The Ohio State University and earned her Masters of Education in Rehabilitation Counseling from Kent State University. Tess is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, with strong interests in student advocacy and helping others. She is dedicated to both supporting students in the process of adapting to the post-secondary setting, and assisting them in working towards their higher education goals.

### **Ashley Haas, M.A.**

Ashley is a Disability Specialist and Service Coordinator for the Office of Accessibility. She earned a Master of Arts in Psychology from Cleveland State University. Ashley has experience in Special Education, assessments, and counseling. She is an advocate for students with disabilities. Ashley seeks to assist students in self-advocacy skills and towards achieving their full potential.

### **Heather Rose, M.A.**

Heather is a Disability Specialist and Service Coordinator for the Office of Accessibility. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Communication Disorders and her Masters in Speech-Language Pathology, both from the University of Akron. As a speech-language pathologist, she specialized in working with children and teens with hearing loss. She has worked in private practice, schools, universities and hospitals. Heather is excited to use her skills at the adult level, helping college level students fulfill their academic and career aspirations.

### **Leigh Sveda**

Leigh is the Adaptive Technology and Service Coordinator for the Office of Accessibility. She graduated from The University of Akron with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She is responsible for the administration and implementation of alternative media for students with disabilities, the supervision of student assistants and administration of STARS. Leigh also oversees the adaptive technology lab housed in the office.

### **Natalie Bendel**

Natalie is the Program Assistant for the Office of Accessibility, where she manages the front desk and coordinates testing. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Hiram College, and decided to pursue a career in higher education after completing an internship in the field. Natalie is passionate about helping students succeed in their post-secondary goals.

## Meet the OA Student Assistants!

### Sydni

Sydni is from New Washington, Ohio and is going into her fourth and final year here at the University of Akron. Her major is Family and Consumer Science Education and apart from school, Sydni spends her days practicing/teaching yoga, staying involved and active in CHAARG and reading.

### Nichole

Nichole is from North Royalton, Ohio, and is beginning her third year at the University of Akron. Her major is speech-language pathology with a minor in Spanish and a certificate in American Sign Language. When she is not focusing on school work, she spends her time with friends, or binge watching her favorite shows on Netflix.

### Delaney

Delaney is from Macedonia, Ohio and is starting her sophomore year at Akron studying Special Education. In her free time, Delaney is a Special Olympics Coach, Young Life Capernaum Leader and an Emerging Leader Alumni.

### Morgan

Morgan is a senior majoring in Criminal Intelligence Analysis. She is planning to go to Graduate school for Forensics and is hoping to join the FBI in the future. She is involved with the American Sign Language Association (ASLA) here on campus. Aside from school, Morgan loves traveling and playing tennis.

## \$100 Problem-Solution Idea Challenge with UARF

### Want to get paid just for your ideas?

The \$100 problem-solution idea challenge gives you the opportunity to learn how to share your creative solutions to problems you observe, no matter how big or small the problem. If you don't have your own problem that you want to solve, no worries, The City of Akron's Innovation and Entrepreneurship Advocate, Heather Roszczyk, will be sharing problems so that you'll also have the chance to propose solutions to problems in Akron. The best idea submitted after the workshop wins! Second place will get \$50.

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, September 10th, 6:30-8:00 pm. Location TBD.

More information and updates can be found at University of Akron Research Foundation online at <http://www.uakronuarf.com/ideafactory.html>.

### OA Quick Tip #3:

Be sure to attend the first meetings of the semester for several clubs and organizations on campus, so you can decide how you want to get involved!



## Suggestion Box

We want your feedback! Email [nab87@uakron.edu](mailto:nab87@uakron.edu) with comments about the current newsletter or ideas you would like to see in future newsletters.

**Office of Accessibility**  
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**Fall & Spring Office Hours:**  
Monday- Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.



Simmons Hall at The University of Akron