WHO ARE WE?

The McBurney Disability Resource Center is an office on UW-Madison’s campus that provides academic accommodations and advocacy for students with disabilities with the goal of providing equal access.

WHAT DO YOU DO?

McBurney approves accommodations within the classroom and across campus. Students at University of Wisconsin-Madison with a documented disability must complete our eligibility process and then work closely with their Access Consultant to create an individualized accommodation plan.

WHAT IS A DISABILITY?

A disability is defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act as a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities. We serve UW-Madison students with physical, learning, sensory, psychological and other disabilities substantially affecting a major life activity (e.g., walking, communicating, learning, seeing, breathing, etc.). Many students have non-apparent disabilities such as depression, anxiety, autism spectrum disorders, learning disabilities, AD/HD and health impairments such as Crohn’s disease or fibromyalgia.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Application for services is divided into four steps:

1. Complete the McBurney Connect Student Application on our website, mcburney.wisc.edu
2. Gather and submit appropriate documentation of your disability
3. Check your email (@wisc.edu email if activated) for next steps while you are gathering documentation of your disability
4. Participate in an initial meeting with your Access Consultant

I DO NOT HAVE A DIAGNOSIS. CAN YOU HELP?

We do not offer testing and diagnosis at McBurney, but we can send you in the right direction. Contact our office for help finding assessment sites on campus and in the Madison area.

DOES DISABILITY STATUS APPEAR ON MY TRANSCRIPT?

Definitely not. All services through McBurney are confidential. No one aside from professors you choose to share your accommodation plan with will know you are a student using McBurney services. Disability diagnosis is never disclosed, unless you volunteer that information.
I HAVE A DISABILITY, BUT I’M NOT SURE I’LL NEED ACCOMMODATIONS IN COLLEGE. SHOULD I STILL APPLY?

Pursuing services is completely up to you. However, once you are approved for services, you are able to decide when and how you will use the accommodations. UW-Madison is a very different learning environment than you may have experienced before, so you might find that your disability-related needs are different as well. Feel free to schedule a meeting at McBurney to gather more information!

CAN I JUST FIGURE OUT IF I NEED IT OR NOT DURING THE SEMESTER?

There is no “application deadline” for McBurney; you can apply anytime. However, we do like to remind students that our services are not retroactive, meaning that if you do poorly in a class or on an exam due to disability, we unfortunately cannot go back to change the outcome. This is another reason that we encourage students to set up accommodations as early as possible.

I BROKE MY WRIST, BUT IT’S NOT A LASTING DISABILITY. CAN MCBURNEY HELP?

McBurney offers advocacy and assistance to students with temporary impairments like a broken bone, recovery from surgery, and other medical conditions. Please reach out to our office for more information on temporary disability services.

DOES MCBURNEY OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS?

Yes, we do. McBurney General Scholarships are available to UW-Madison undergraduate, graduate and professional students who are registered with McBurney. Check out our website and the UW Madison scholarship page (scholarships.wisc.edu) for more information.

I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS.

We have answers! Feel free to contact us at any time for more information or to move forward with becoming a McBurney student.