

A decorative border featuring various tropical leaves, including monstera and palm fronds, in shades of green and blue, framing the central text area.

Discussion of accommodation and advocacy for graduate student researchers

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Disclaimer

- This is not my field of study
- I am still learning and I may use incorrect language – I apologize in advance if I do
- SwD = students with disability

My experience

- Bad advice
- Uncaring professor
- Caring professor & trip to the ER
- Working with Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Office
- New Health issues
- Two surgeries

Most SwD face difficulty obtaining accommodations

72.5% of 266 SwD did **not** find it easy to arrange accommodations they needed

70% of 245 SwD did **not** find it easy to implement accommodations they were granted

Barriers to support and accommodations

- Discussing disability and illness & obtaining accommodations is highly stigmatized
- The majority of graduate students do not know they can receive accommodations in the research lab
- Graduate students are somewhere between students and employees
- It is taxing on SwD to obtain and manage their accommodations

What can you do?

Graduate students with disability or illness

- Advocate for yourself
- Prioritize your health
- Continue talking to others to build a support network
- Push your department/school to make changes

Faculty, staff, and other graduate students

- Listen! :)
- Understand and be prepared to implement a variety of accommodations
- Support SwD by helping push the department/school to make changes

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OPEN DISCUSSION