Small School; Big Changes: Growing Your Higher Ed Assistive Technology Program

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Session Agenda

• Overview of Augsburg’s Disability Service Office

• Quality Indicators of Assistive Technology – Post Secondary (QIAT-PS)

• Administration and Discussion of QIAT-PS

• Augsburg’s Case Study and Implementations

• Take Away Ideas for Your Office
Augsburg College

• Located in Heart of Minneapolis, MN

• Approximately 3600 students; 2000 traditional day undergrads, adult undergrads and graduate students

• Approximately 300 students access services in the CLASS Office (Disability Services) per year

• Top 10 Disability Services Office in the country

• 3 Specialists, Director, Admin, Accommodations Specialist/AT Specialist
Quality Indicators of Assistive Technology – Post Secondary (QIAT-PS)

• Campus-Self Evaluation Matrix for Higher Ed Disability Services professionals
• Funded by Great Lakes and Southwest ADA Centers with grants from US Dept. of Education
• Derivative from QIAT – K-12
• Not a comparison to other schools
• Free to use
• Five indicator areas, with five indicators in each – 25 indicators total
• Recruiting for pilot schools currently or take it without being part of the pilot
• Student Evaluation Matrix for students going into Higher Ed to take

www.qiat-ps.org
Five Indicator Areas

• Awareness and Eligibility
  • Disseminates info about AT, eligibility requirements, process for AT selection

• Planning and Implementation
  • Exploration, planning, implementation, monitoring and collaboration of AT use on campus

• Evaluation of Effectiveness
  • Planned and documented evaluation of AT effectiveness

• Administrative Support
  • Hiring, budget, grievance procedure, written guidelines

• Professional Development and Training
  • Trainings and Professional Development
Student Self-Evaluation Matrix

QIAT-PS for Students are indicators directed at K-12 transition learners and students with disabilities. The self-evaluation matrix is intended to measure and improve assistive technology transfer to higher education settings. You may have your responses emailed. Your most current responses will be saved if you have created an account.

Show options / Hide options

Print Version

Student Indicators

← Less Promising  More Promising →

1. **Indicator:** Self Awareness - The student is aware of the various factors of their disability and is knowledgeable about their needed accommodations.

2. Student is unaware or misinformed of the impact of the disability on success in college.

3. Student is aware that they will need help in college, but is unaware of what they need or what assistive technology is available.

4. Student has an accurate and clear sense of their goals, abilities, and needed assistive technology, but is unclear about how to obtain them.

5. Student has an accurate and clear sense of their goals, abilities, and needed assistive technology and knows how to request and/or acquire them.
Augsburg’s Involvement in QIAT-PS

• Part of Pilot Study for QIAT-PS

• Helped validate measure

• Use tool yearly to measure progress

• Use questions as a springboard to implement change within the Disability Services Office

• Each change within office was direct result of indicator area to improve upon
Pilot Requirements

• Application - Share demographics of the size, culture and needs of the organization for accommodation and assistive technology

• Training or Meeting on the Pilot Project

• Pre and post assessment using campus self-evaluation matrix (Results Shared)

• Identify an area of need and plan an improvement strategy (Plan Shared)

• Complete a survey on the indicators and project effectiveness
QIAT-PS Contact Information

Janet Peters, Great Lakes ADA Center
jpete@uic.edu  (312) 413-5931

www.qiat-ps.org
Augsburg’s Timeline with QIAT-PS

• July 2010 - AHEAD Conference Listening Sessions
• Spring, 2012 – Initial Measure Fill Out
• Spring, 2012 – Meeting regarding results, and to plan for fall in-services
• September 2012 – Two In-service Days
  • Day One – Latest and Greatest in Assistive Technology & Read & Write Gold Pilot
  • Day Two – New Process and Procedure Day
• Academic Year 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 – Implement New Processes
• Measure Retaken January, 2013 & October, 2014 with continued goal setting and project implementation
Results of QIAT-PS Over Time

Augsburg's QIAT-PS Results Over Three Assessments
### Raw Data Scores of QIAT-PS Results

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General and Campus Outreach Changes Implemented Over Time

- Intake/Student Interview Form Changes (Fall & Spring, 2012)
- Office Contact/Information Form (Fall, 2012)
- Technology Showcases (Spring, 2013)
- Assistive Technology Consultations (Summer & Fall, 2013)
- Read & Write Gold Purchase and Implementation (Spring, 2014)
- Website of Assistive Technology for All (Summer, 2014)
- Facebook and Twitter Accounts (Fall, 2014)
- Additional Surveys to Students for Feedback (Fall, 2014)
- AT Consultations Questionnaire/Guideline (Fall, 2014)
- YouTube Videos and Channel (Future)
- Student Take Self-Evaluation of QIAT prior to Entry (Future)
Form Changes

• Intake/Student Interview Form Changes
  • Directed questions about Assistive Technology and Technology Use in the past
  • Fall, 2012 & Spring, 2013

• Office Contact/Information Form
  • Focused on Assistive Technology Available to Anyone
  • Resource for all students to use
  • Fall, 2012

What Can You Do?!
• Take a look at your intake forms. Do you directly ask about AT usage and technology experience?!
Technology Showcases

• Technology Showcases
  • Spring, 2013

• Bi-weekly workshops for students to get hands-on experience with technology available to them

*What Can You Do?!:

• Do you provide a time for students to try their Assistive Technology before they use it!? If not, consider a monthly drop in time for students to try out Assistive Technology that’s available to them.
Assistive Technology Consultation

- Assistive Technology Consultations
  - Summer & Fall, 2013

- Interactive model for Assistive Technology implementation

- 75% AT eligible students came in prior to classes starting for installation and training during summer 2013

- Streamlines process for Fall, 2013 school year

- Continued process helps get technology into hands of students sooner in streamlined process

What Can You Do?!:

- Are you students an integral part of the decision making process of Assistive Technology? Consider spending time talking with students about Assistive Technology needs, experiences and letting them try technology prior to giving it to them.
Additional Assistive Technology Purchase

• Read&Write Purchase and Implementation
  • Spring, 2014

• Purchase of literacy software for campus-wide use

• Session today at 1:20pm about implementation – same room!!

What Can You Do?!:

• Work with stakeholders on campus to bring tools on campus that could help all students. Focus on campus-wide benefit and retention support!
Website Resource

• Website of Free and Low Cost Assistive Technology for Everyone
  • Summer, 2014

• Website for anyone, anywhere that addresses free and low cost AT

http://www.augsburg.edu/class/groves/assistive-technology/

*What Can You Do?!:

• Do you have a resource for students of Assistive Technology available to them? If not, start small with a few.
# Reading & Literacy Support

The following Free or Low Cost Assistive Technology software programs are available for anyone to use. The following programs, software, website, and apps focus on different forms of Reading and Literacy Support.

**Reading & Literacy Support:**

## Natural Reader

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<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Text-to-Speech software</td>
<td>Converts Microsoft Word, Webpages, PDFs, and Email into spoken text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customize reading voice and speed</td>
<td>For your readings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Floating toolbar to read text in other applications</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Text-to-Speech program with options to input text from various</td>
<td>Sources on your computer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Cost: Free | Compatibility: Windows; Mac OS; Online Resource |

## Readability

<table>
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<th>Feature</th>
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<tr>
<td>Turns any webpage into a clean reading page</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eliminates distractions and other visual clutter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read your articles now or save them for future reading</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjust text size and line length for easier reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safari internet browser has built-in feature that does similar features</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Cost: Free | Compatibility: Online Resource; Android; iOS; iPad, iPhone |

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Social Media

• Facebook and Twitter Accounts
  • Fall, 2014

• Daily tech tips posted to Facebook and Twitter sites

Facebook: Groves Assistive Technology Lab
https://www.facebook.com/grovesatlab

Twitter: @groveslab
https://twitter.com/groveslab

What Can You Do?!:

• Create social media sites; follow companies and Assistive Technology companies and repost their posts to help yourself and others stay on top of updates and news about Assistive Technology
Surveys

• Additional Surveys to Students for Feedback
  • Fall, 2014

• Midterm and end of term surveys about Assistive Technology usage, satisfaction, and intent to use in the future

*What Can You Do?!:*

• Create a Google Form to solicit feedback from students about Assistive Technology satisfaction and use
Assistive Technology Questionnaire

• Assistive Technology Consultations Questionnaire/Guideline
  • Fall, 2014

• Outline of questions to guide conversation in Assistive Technology consultations to better support Assistive Technology implementation

What Can You Do?!:

• Ask questions of your students when consulting about Assistive Technology
Future Ideas

• YouTube Videos

• Student Take Self-Evaluation of QIAT prior to Entry

• Exit Consultation for Graduating Students
Links

Augsburg College/Groves Technology Website:
http://www.augsburg.edu/class/groves/assistive-technology/

Facebook: Groves Assistive Technology Lab
https://www.facebook.com/grovesatlab

Twitter: @groveslab
https://twitter.com/groveslab
Thank You For Attending!

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