

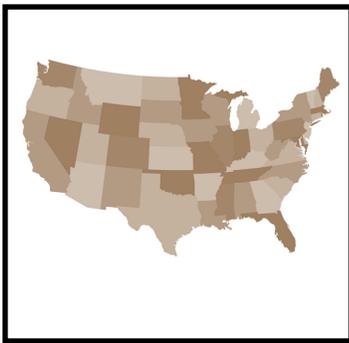
CREATING STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS ABOUT DISABILITY

Blackdisabledandproud.org

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Options for Students and Campuses

For students or administrators who are interested in setting up a disability-related student organization, there are several options for you to consider.



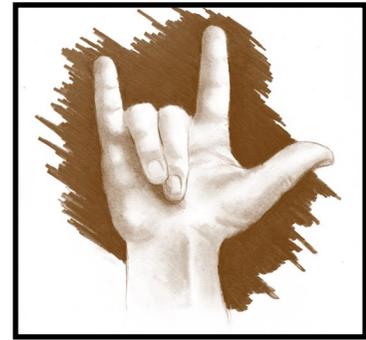
NATIONAL GROUPS

Set up a chapter of a national group, like Active Minds or Delta Alpha Pi.



ACTIVISM & ADVOCACY

Form a student group to work on a problem or to create campus change.



SPECIAL INTERESTS

A student organization can form around a shared interest, like ASL.



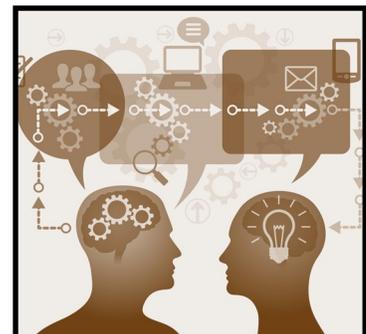
A CULTURAL CENTER

Form a disability cultural center to promote pride, culture, and community.



SUPPORT

Need support, peer mentoring, or tutoring? A student group can help.



LIVING/LEARNING

Create a living/learning hall in the dorm, around disability or deaf studies.

Important Tips

- **Find an advisor who “gets it.”** Ideally, find a person with a disability or someone who has a proven track record as an ally. At a minimum, the advisor should know about socio-political models of disability and universal design.
- **Use multiple recruitment methods.** Many students think anything related to disability will be tragic and sad, and many disabled students don't think of themselves as “disabled.” Don't just recruit through disability services offices or health services. Go to new student orientation, co-sponsor big events, and spread the word however you can.
- **Avoid simulations.** Research has shown that simulations just make people feel pity for those who have disabilities. Nondisabled people love them, but they never ever work. Would you allow blackface to teach others about race?
- **Find your home.** If other student organizations are with student activities, the disability organization should be there, too. If they are under cultural centers or minority studies programs, then your disability group should be under a disability cultural center, disability or deaf studies, or the ASL department. Don't have one? Time to ask why.
- **Go beyond “awareness” and “compliance.”** If your campus just wants disability awareness events or information sessions about legal rights, consider pushing the campus to do more, promoting disability history, culture, the arts, and activism.
- **Show your campus what inclusion looks like.** Anyone can be disabled, so your student group will have people of all ages, colors, creeds, races, genders, and backgrounds. Learn about other cultural groups and how to be an ally, so your group is truly inclusive.



National Student Groups

Set up a chapter of any of the following groups, or join as an individual:

- **Active Minds**
- **Autistic Self-Advocacy Network**
- **Disability Rights, Education, Activism, and Mentoring (DREAM)**
- **Delta Alpha Pi Honor Society**

Don't see a group here? Let us know—hbcu@ahead.org. But do your homework. Some groups only have individual memberships. Others have problematic disability politics advocating pity, cures, or nondisabled people being the hope or helpers for disabled people.

