ASSETS provides structured support for entering students with learning disabilities or ADD/ADHD to smooth the initial transition from high school to college and to help them develop the independence, self-confidence and skills for academic success.

Smith College is committed to assuring nondiscrimination for all students with documented disabilities and offers accommodations that are determined to be necessary and reasonable.

Notice of Nondiscrimination
Smith College is committed to maintaining a diverse community in an atmosphere of mutual respect and appreciation of differences.

Smith College does not discriminate in its educational and employment policies on the bases of race, color, creed, religion, national/ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, or with regard to the bases outlined in the Veterans Readjustment Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Smith’s admission policies and practices are guided by the same principle, concerning women applying to the undergraduate program and all applicants to the graduate programs.

For more information, contact the Office of Institutional Diversity, (413) 585-2141.
ASSETS Goals

- Understand academic and social opportunities and expectations at Smith.
- Understand disability documentation requirements and the accommodation process.
- Enhance your ability to communicate knowledgeably and effectively about your learning needs in the Smith College environment.
- Build personal strategies and skills for academic success.

Program Components

Orientation Session

Presenters: Tom Riddell, Dean of the First Year Class
Laura Rauscher, Disability Services Director

This session helps students with learning disabilities or ADD/ADHD and parents understand how to enhance success in the Smith learning environment. It will cover academic requirements and social expectations, Smith academic support and residential programs, disability services and accommodations at Smith, requirements for disability documentation, and student rights and responsibilities.

Workshops

Student workshops will take place once a week for the first four weeks of the semester; the final one will be held in the last week of October. Presenters will include class deans, disability services staff, learning specialists and other experts in the disability field.

1. Transitions for Students with Learning Disabilities:
   - Academic opportunities and expectations at Smith.
   - Disability services and accommodations: Students’ rights and responsibilities.
2. The Juggling Act: Skills and technology for time management, scheduling and decision making.
5. Pulling It All Together: Mid-semester session on midterms, course selection and preparing for finals.

Individualized Consultation with Learning Specialist

Students will be scheduled for a one-hour individualized consultation with Smith’s learning specialist to discuss learning challenges and strengths and identify areas to work on individually or through other Smith resources. Students participating in ASSETS will have priority in scheduling additional consultation sessions with the learning specialist.

Peer Mentor Relationships

Several Smith women with disabilities are available as mentors to new students with disabilities. Students participating in ASSETS will be given the option of connecting with a mentor who has a similar disability. This “Sister to Sister” network brings students with various disabilities or significant health conditions together from time to time to share stories, socialize, offer mutual support and encourage creative solutions to academic and other problems.

For More Information

For more information or to register, please return the registration form or contact Laura Rauscher in the Office of Disability Services at Smith College, College Hall 104, Northampton, Massachusetts 01063 or call (413) 585-2071 (voice) or 585-2071 (TTY)

Note: Students with learning disabilities participating in ASSETS must submit copies of most recent testing including scores and recommendations by August 20. Please review the documentation guidelines on the Smith Web site to assure that your testing meets Smith’s documentation requirements. Students with ADD/ADHD must submit similar testing or a doctor’s letter indicating diagnosis, functional problems and treatment received. If you already sent this information to the Office of Disability Services, please call to confirm that it has been received.

Registration

Return this form by August 20 to the Office of Disability Services, Smith College, College Hall 104, Northampton, MA 01063.

Student name

Home address

Phone

E-mail

Type of disability

Please submit a brief written statement (one or two paragraphs) describing your learning challenges and strengths in your own words with this registration form.

Psychoeducational Testing

Have you been tested for a learning disability or evaluated by a clinician for ADD/ADHD? □ Yes □ No

Type of clinician (specialty) conducting testing

Date of most recent testing

Disability Accommodations

Are there accommodations we can make that would better enable you to participate in this program?