



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A
DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER
ON A UNIVERSITY CAMPUS?

Mission

The Disability Resource Center *celebrates disability identity as a valued aspect of diversity.* We champion a *universally-accessible campus* community that supports the **holistic advancement of individuals with disabilities.**

Vision

The Disability Resource Center envisions a **universally inclusive community** where all individuals are seen as valued and contributing leaders of society.

Who are our DRC students?

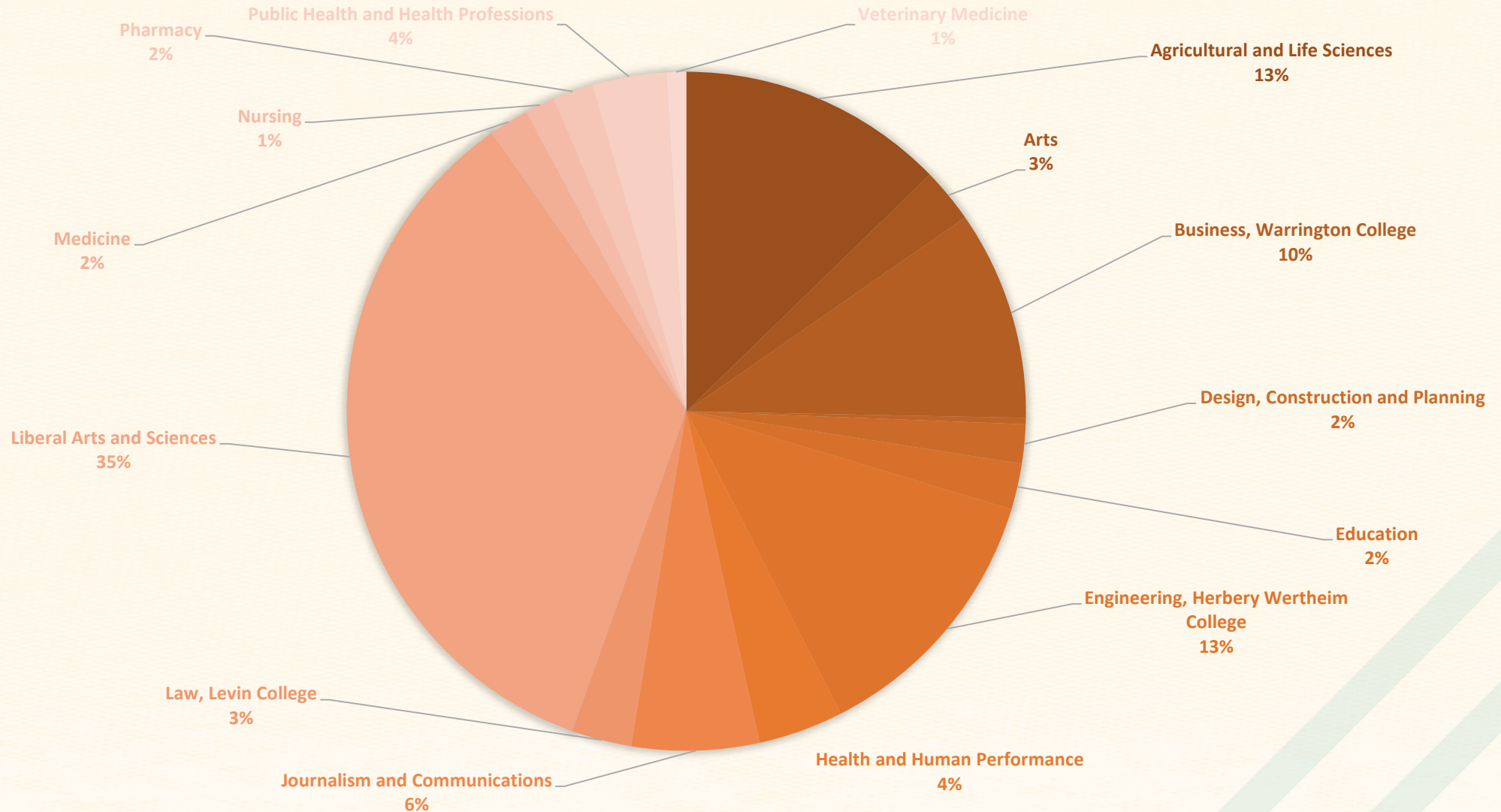
Gators with disabilities connected with the DRC:

- 3,205 UF students
- Undergrad (83%)
- Graduate (10%)
- Professional Programs(7%)

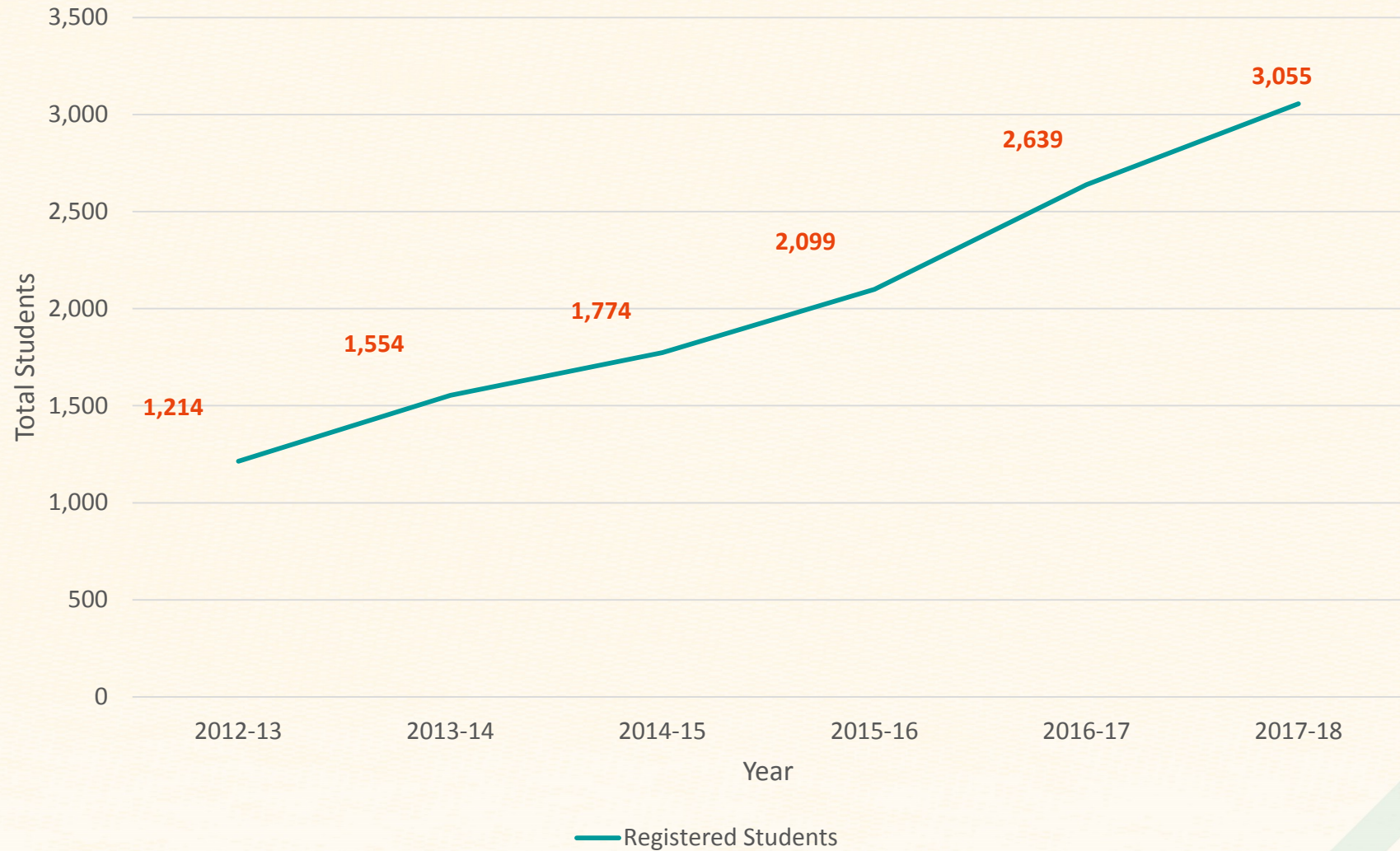
Categories of disability:

- Mental Health Impairments
- Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
- Learning Disorders
- Medical/Chronic Health Conditions
- Hearing, Vision, TBI, Autism
- Physical/Mobility Impairments

Who are our DRC students?



DRC growth



Defining Disability

Merriam-Webster dictionary definition:

- **damages or limits** a person's physical or mental abilities
- **unable to do things in the normal way**
- a disqualification, restriction, or **disadvantage**

ADA definition

- an individual with a disability is a person who:
- (1) has a physical or mental **impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities**; OR
- (2) has a record of such an impairment; OR
- (3) is regarded as having such an impairment.

Social Model of Disability



- Disability is a **social limitation** that is not a result of the state of the body, but a **lack of fit between the body and the environment**
- Society perpetuates disability
- Disability is a salient identity

What are DRC students telling us?

"I have had many professors challenge my disability because it is not physically apparent to them."

"It's honestly been very difficult. I don't really advocate for myself. I more so try to hide the fact that I receive accommodations out of shame or fear of being looked down upon by peers and professors."

"Teachers and faculty has been very understanding and helpful"

-DRC Student Survey Spring 2018

Sometimes You're a Caterpillar



WHAT ARE SOME IDEAS YOU
HAVE TO CREATE AN
ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE
EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS
WITH DISABILITIES?

Universal Design

The concept is also called inclusive design or human-centered design.

The message is the same:

if it works well for people across the spectrum of functional ability, it works better for everyone.