



# JUSTIN DART JR. **STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY CENTER**

GROWTH, ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION  
**SFAC 2024**



Justin Dart, Jr.  
Student Accessibility Center  
Division of Student Affairs



# AGENDA

- ☐ Mission & Vision
- ☐ A Year in Review
- ☐ Alternative Testing
- ☐ Access Coordinator
- ☐ Assistive Technology
- ☐ Sign Language Interpreter
- ☐ Breakfast & Brainfood
- ☐ White Cane Safety Day
- ☐ Wheelchair Basketball Tournament





# The Dart Center

*Mission: To equalize students who have disabilities with learning, discovery, and engagement by fostering self-advocacy, inclusion, and success.*

*Vision: We aim to provide acclaimed customer service to our students that results in a valuable impact on their education experience*

## Advocate

for inclusive opportunities  
for everything the  
University has to offer

## Empower

students, staff, and faculty with  
knowledge to help create an  
academic environment of  
inclusion and acceptance

## Educate

the University to create  
policies that support and  
promote meaningful change

## Create

opportunities for students on  
campus to get engaged/connected  
and provide access to express  
concerns



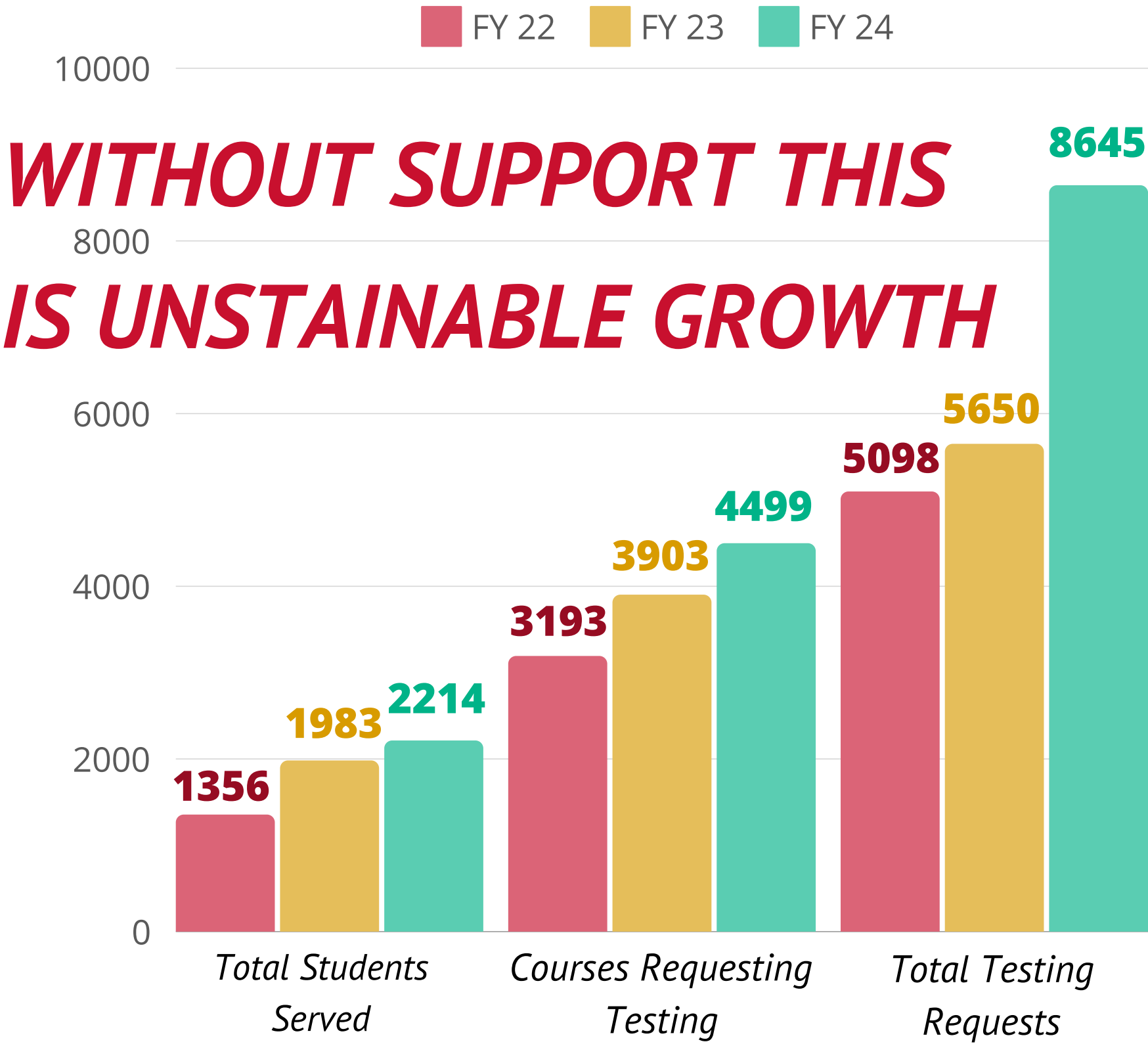
# Requested Testing Position

## Program Coordinator I (Alternative Testing Support)

- Manage the scheduling, administration, and proctoring of exams in a distraction-reduced environment with extended testing time.
- Provides additional support for the substantial increase in alternative testing requests from students and faculty across all UH colleges.
- Facilitate administration of national and certifying exams for College of Medicine, College of Pharmacy, College of Optometry.
- Supports additional hours, cuts down on wait time, and improves communication.
- Serve as a dedicated resource for students requiring alternative testing accommodations at Sugarland and Katy Instructional sites.

*Currently 1 employee is providing testing services for all 4,992 registered students*

Recommendation from external review committee - 2024  
“Immediately add at least one other testing center full-time employee to ensure continuity of service and increased operational support. This role would help manage the increasing workload and provide essential backup during staff transitions.





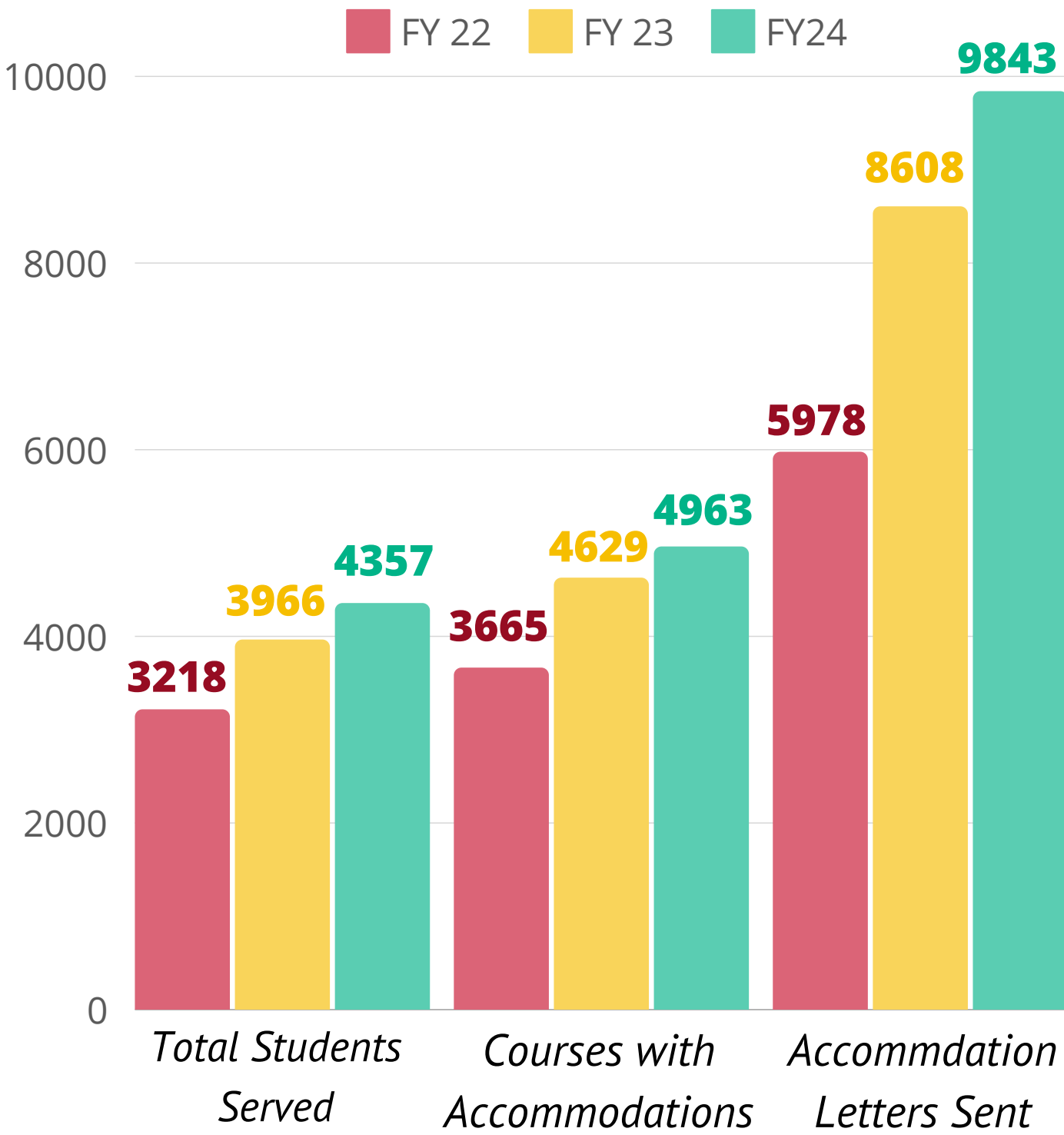
# Requested Access Coordinator Position

## Access Coordinator

- Establishes collaborative partnerships with students to assess documentation, prescribe appropriate accommodations, and assist faculty in implementing them effectively.
- Reduces the student-to-Access Coordinator ratio to ensure personalized support and timely service.
- Transitions towards a college-model approach by assigning specific staff to particular colleges for enhanced accessibility.
- Promotes consistent and equitable access to accommodations across the entire UH system.
- Addresses the increasing demand for services at the Sugarland and Katy Instructional sites.

*The current Access Coordinator to Student Ratio is 1 : 1,050*

Recommendation from external review committee 2024  
“Reduce AC [Access Coordinator] caseloads by adding additional ACs as soon as fiscally possible. Set informed caseload limit and develop staffing plan to ensure that staff growth continues to keep pace with registrant growth annually.”



***Students are waiting 4 weeks  
for intake appointments***



# Communication Access Position

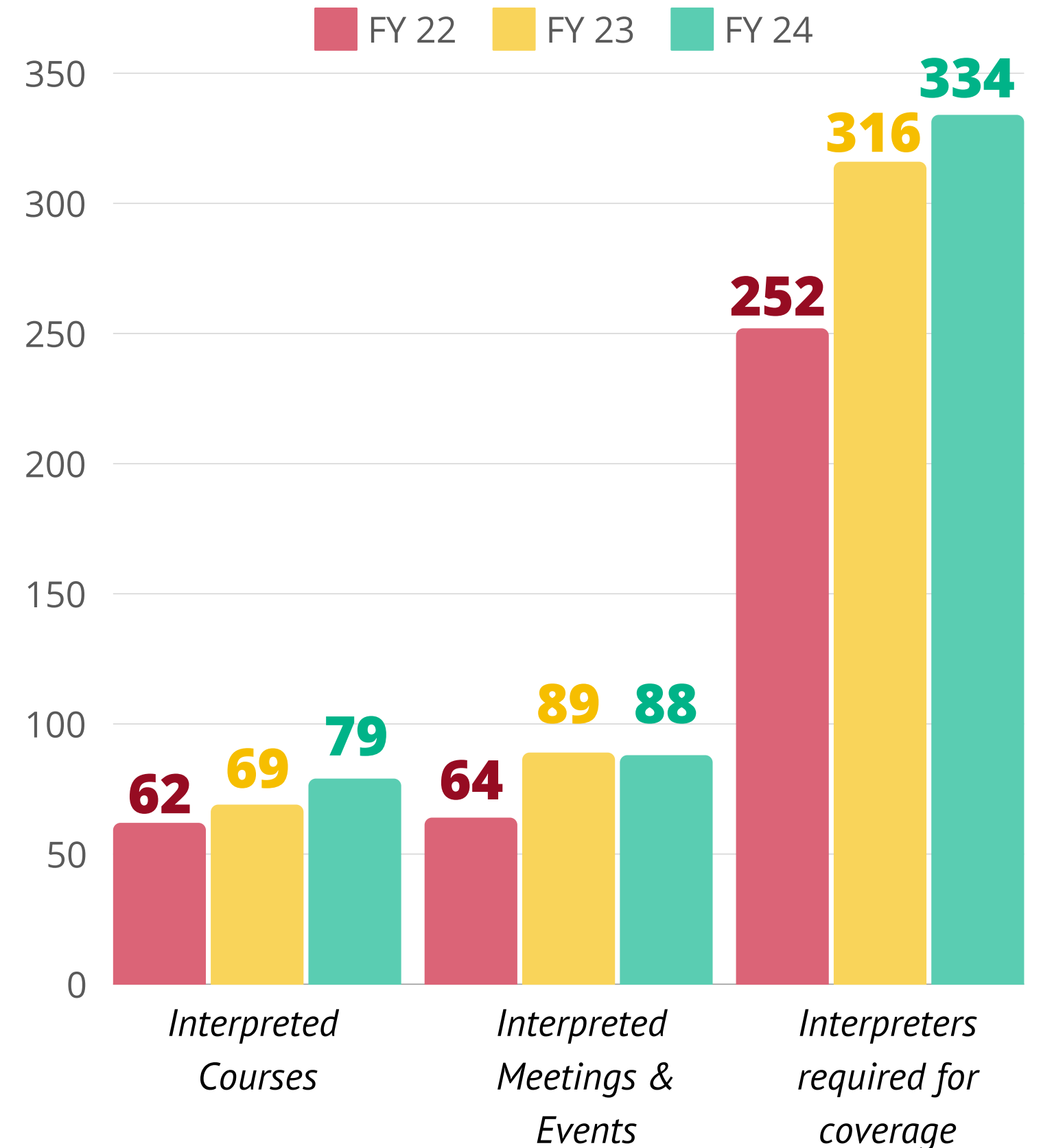
## *Sign Language Interpreter II*

- Provides sign language interpreting for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing students, faculty, and staff in classes, University appointments, and special events
- Interprets in undergraduate, graduate, professional schools, PhD programs and mental health situations
- Serves as a liaison between deaf or hard of hearing students, hearing students, and instructors.
- Partners on efforts to recruit prospective students from deaf education programs, deaf schools, and community events.

*Hiring staff has shown a 60% cost savings compared to outside contractors*

Recommendation from external review committee 2024

“Hire at least one other full-time interpreter to reduce vendor costs and provide better service delivery. Full-time interpreters can provide double the number of hours as a part-time interpreter and are less costly than services from vendors.”





# Requested Assistive Technology Position

## *Program Coordinator I (Assistive Technology Support)*

- Collaborates with the Assistive Technology Coordinator
- Facilitates the integration of assistive technology across the campus
- Provides personalized training for students, staff, and faculty to optimize the use of assistive technology.
- Serves as resource for faculty and staff regarding assistive technology options and best practices.
- Supports alternative testing arrangements for all students who utilize assistive technology equipment.
- Engages in active outreach across the campus to promote awareness and accessibility.

*The rise in alternative testing requests has led to a corresponding increase in the use of assistive technology.*

Recommendation from external review committee 2024  
“Explore additional assistive technology placed in locations other than Dart Center to facilitate access across campus.”



### **Closed Circuit Television**

Optical character recognition software called magnilink which provides magnification of text and objects for individuals with low-vision



### **Braille Embosser**

Prints braille using a software called Duxbury  
Prints graphics to provide a tactile view



### **Refreshable Braille Display**

Provides access to information on a computer screen by electronically raising and lowering different combinations of pins in braille cells



### **Thermal printing**

Used to provide 3D printed materials, tactile graphs, for individuals with low vision and blindness



# Our Year in Review

## Breakfast & Brainfood



Unwind with Wellness



## Free Wednesday Lunch



## Accessibility Forum



## DSAES Leadership Conference



## Fresh Check Day



## Region IV DHH Student Resource Fair

## White Cane Safety Day



## UH Beyond Barriers: Disability Employment Symposium

## Cougar First Impressions



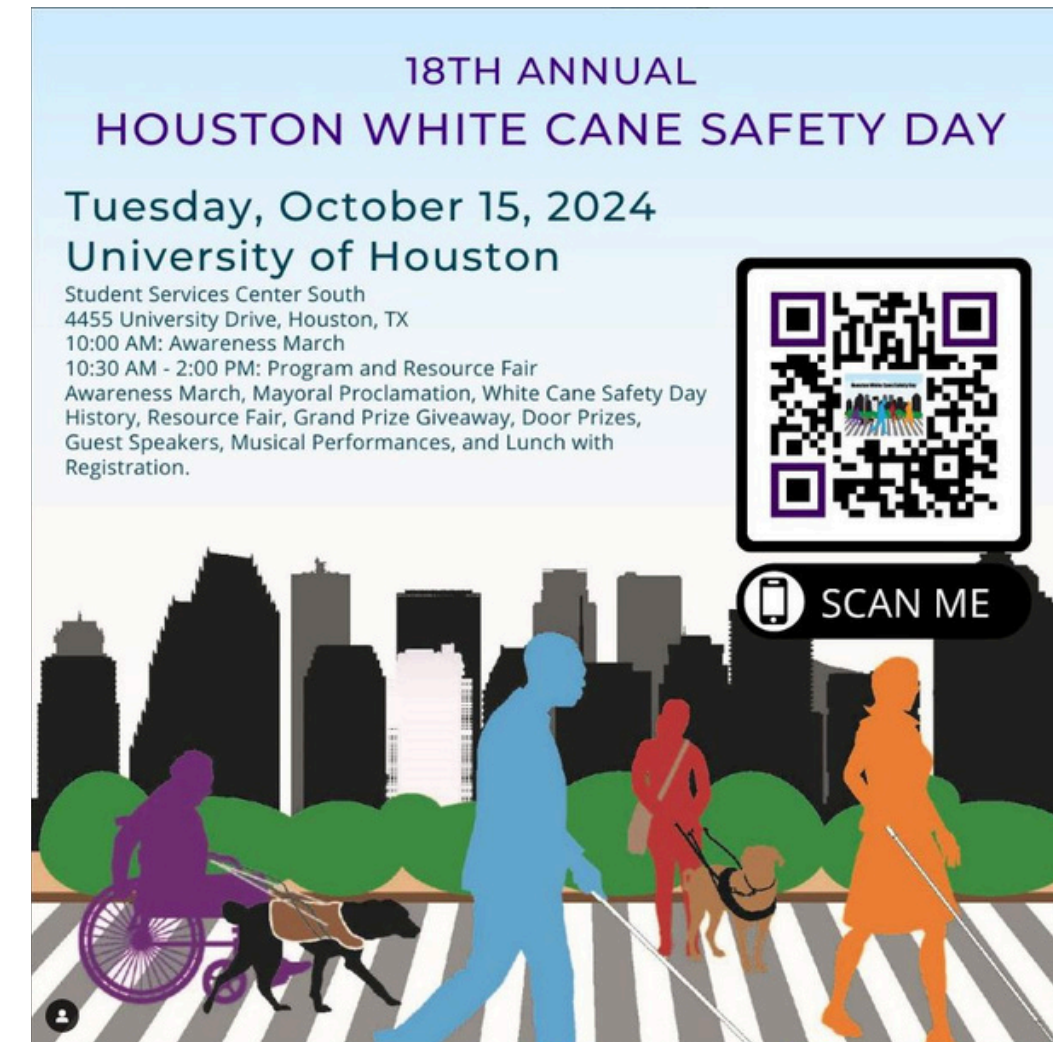
## Sugarland Movie Day



# Programming Requests

*One time request - \$5,860*

- **Location Cost** - Houston Room, Student Center South
- **Food Cost** - Funded by Texas Workforce Commission
- **Marketing / Promotional Cost** - None
- **Impact** - This event fosters a greater understanding of blindness and low vision, promoting inclusivity and accessibility on campus. Since the events return to the University of Houston three years ago, we have hosted over 1,000 blind and low vision individuals on campus.



The Dart Center hosted the 18th annual White Cane Safety Day. Approximately 600 people attended the event.



@uhdartcenter



UH Dart Center



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# Programming Requests



2024 Dart Center/UH Adaptive Athletic  
Wheelchair Basketball Tournament

*One time request - \$500*

- **Location Cost** - Basketball Court, Rec Center
- **Food Cost** - \$500
- **Marketing / Promotional Cost** - None - collaboration between Dart Center & Adaptive Athletics
- **Impact** - The 2024 wheelchair basketball tournament offers a unique opportunity for both disabled and non-disabled individuals to experience the excitement and camaraderie of this adaptive sport.



# Justin Dart Jr. Student Accessibility Center

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CONTACT US



THANK YOU

