

Disability Support Services

Learning Disabilities Assessment and Services

Southwestern College Disability Support Services (DSS) provides diagnostic assessment of learning and information processing strengths and weaknesses to verify learning disability (LD) eligibility in accordance with California Community College Title 5 Education Code.

What is a Learning Disability?

A learning disability is a permanent (cognitive) disorder that affects the manner in which individuals with average to above average intelligence take in, retain, and/or express information.

Southwestern College students who are interested in diagnostic assessment and learning disability (LD) eligibility may visit the DSS office to obtain more information about this process.

Many students self-refer for diagnostic assessment when they have difficulty with comprehension, memory, study skills etc. Faculty often refer students for diagnostic assessment when a discrepancy appears between student ability and performance.

If a student qualifies for the LD program, DSS offers services and accommodations to support the educational goals of each student. Common services and accommodations may include:

- Academic advising and study skills counseling
- Access to materials in alternate formats
- Note-takers
- Taped textbooks
- Test-taking accommodations

DSS promotes academic success and self advocacy for students to utilize their strengths in learning.