

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Academic accommodations are modifications made in an academic setting to afford the student with a disability an equal opportunity to learn in a lecture and lab course and to show what they have learned on tests. Examples of common accommodations include note-taker in class, extra time on tests, enlarged print. The educational institution via instructional faculty must provide reasonable accommodations to the student with a known disability.

In order for the student to receive an accommodation, she/he must request the “reasonable” accommodation in a timely manner by providing the instructor or Disability Support Services Office with written documentation of the disability. The instructor and the student discuss the requested accommodation(s) and how the accommodations(s) will be provided. All communications are confidential. DSS verifies the existence of a disability, functional limitations, and authorizes reasonable academic accommodations according to the Title V regulations. Faculty will receive a copy of the “Authorized Academic Accommodations” form verifying student qualification. DSS can help instructors organize and provide accommodations using their standard procedures/forms. DSS is not responsible to provide academic accommodations, that is a faculty/institutional responsibility.

The Disability Support Services Office recommends all students discuss accommodation requests in the first two weeks of the semester, however, students are not required to do so. Students with a disability have the right to decide when to disclose their disability and request accommodations from a professor.

If you need additional information on academic accommodations, you should contact the DSS Specialist or the Academic Accommodation Officer, Dean Mia McClellan, for advice and or clarification. Faculty cannot deny reasonable academic accommodations. If a conflict exists, and it is not resolved in five (5) instructional days, the student has the option to request its review by the College Academic Accommodations Panel. For students whose disabling condition has been verified, the accommodation will be allowed for a maximum of three (3) weeks during which time a resolution will be achieved. Recent case laws mandate then need for this procedure. While the district is ultimately responsible for providing academic accommodations, a faculty member may be held personally liable for not allowing an accommodation. (Wood v. Strickland, 1979; Howe v. Hull, 1994; US v. Morvant, 1994)

DSS RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT BE INCLUDED ON YOUR COURSE SYLLABI:

Southwestern College recommends that students with disabilities discuss academic accommodations with their professors during the first two weeks of class. An alternate format of the syllabus and class handouts is available upon request.