



Presented by:

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# **ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

# DISABILITY LAWS

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- ✘ The Rehabilitation Act of 1973-Section 504

- + Section 504 states:

- “No otherwise qualified person with a disability in the United States ..... shall, solely on the basis of disability, be denied access to, or the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity provided by any institution receiving federal financial assistance.”*

- ✘ The American with Disabilities Act

- + Protects individuals with disabilities from discrimination because of their disability

# TYPE OF DISABILITIES

A word cloud of various types of disabilities is displayed on a black background. The words are arranged in a roughly circular pattern and are written in different colors and orientations. The colors include white, light blue, green, and yellow. The orientations are mostly vertical, but some are horizontal or slightly angled. The words are: Mobility Impairment (white, horizontal), Written Expression Disorder (light blue, vertical), Attention Deficit-Hyperactive Disorder (yellow, vertical), Blindness-Visual Impairment (green, vertical), Psychological Disability (green, vertical), Learning Disability (light blue, vertical), Reading Disorder (light blue, horizontal), Deaf-Hard-of-Hearing (green, horizontal), Dyslexia (yellow, vertical), and Mathematic Disorder (green, horizontal).

Mobility Impairment

Written Expression Disorder

Attention Deficit-Hyperactive Disorder

Blindness-Visual Impairment

Psychological Disability

Learning Disability

Reading Disorder

Deaf-Hard-of-Hearing

Dyslexia

Mathematic Disorder

# ACCOMMODATIONS/SERVICES

- ✘ Interpreting services
- ✘ Extended time
- ✘ Reader
- ✘ Scribe
- ✘ Assisting students with obtaining notes
- ✘ Distraction-free environment
- ✘ Tape recorder
- ✘ Computer with specialized software programs
- ✘ Preferential seating
- ✘ Testing services
- ✘ Consideration for absences
- ✘ Consideration for misspelling



# BARRIERS

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## × Barriers

+ Think about the barriers that might prevent students with disabilities from participating in the classes, programs, services, and activities that are offered.

## × **Physical barriers**

+ Make sure there are accessible routes throughout the campus, including routes into buildings. Make sure there is adequate accessible signage. Make sure that adjustable desks or table are available.

## × **Program barriers**

+ Review eligibility requirements that tend to screen out people with disabilities, like a requirement that people are able to manipulate lab instruments with their hands.

## × **Service animal policy**

## × **Communication barriers**

× **Accessible information technology is critical** at the college and university level.

× **Web sites and Online Courses** should be accessible to students with visual disabilities (screen reader technology).

# UNIVERSAL DESIGN?

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- ✘ Creation or adaptation of environments, programs and products to be usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.
  - + For example, ramps and automatic door openers benefit individuals using walkers and wheelchairs, but also benefit elderly people, mothers with baby strollers, or business people with rolling briefcases.
  - + If television displays in public areas are captioned, programming is accessible to people who are deaf and everyone else who cannot hear the audio in noisy areas.
  - + Universal design goes beyond minimum codes and standards to create designs that serve the broadest public (including people with disabilities) throughout their life spans.
  - + A universal design approach to service delivery holds the promise of creating more inclusive environments, alleviating the need for some individual accommodations and creating a more collaborative, wide-reaching role for providers.

# ACCESSIBILITY OF COURSE MATERIAL

- ✘ Students with disabilities must have the appropriate auxiliary aids needed to locate and obtain library resources.
- ✘ Basic index of holdings (whether formatted on-line or on index cards) must be accessible.
  - + For example, a screen and keyboard (or card file) must be placed within reach of a student using a wheelchair.
  - + If a Braille index of holdings is not available for blind students, readers must be provided for necessary immediate assistance.
- ✘ Class notes
- ✘ Examinations
- ✘ Written materials
  - + Public Law 104-197...
  - + Permits reproduction of books in alternate formats for individuals with disabilities

# ACCESSIBILITY

- ✘ Notes, PowerPoints and other visual aids
- ✘ Blackboard
- ✘ Wheelchair accessible desks
- ✘ “User friendly”
- ✘ Peer mentoring

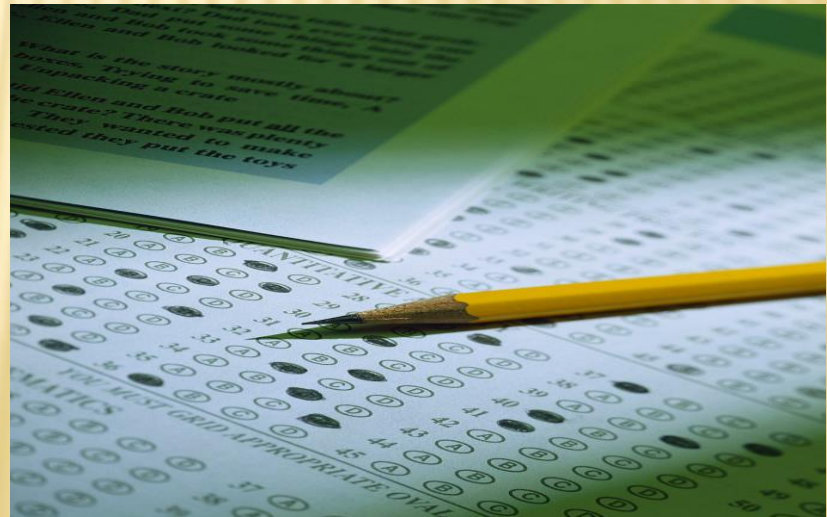




# TESTING

## ✘ Testing Center Option

- + Send test to The Testing Center via email:  
[cityparktesting@dcc.edu](mailto:cityparktesting@dcc.edu)
- + Student appointment at least 2 days in advance
- + Specific instructions



# KEEP THIS IN MIND

- ✘ Confidentiality
- ✘ Your rights and responsibilities
- ✘ Students' rights and responsibilities
- ✘ Communication



# YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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## ✘ RIGHTS:

- + DO NOT ASSUME
- + DO ASK FOR VERIFICATION
- + DO ASK FOR ASSISTANCE

## ✘ RESPONSIBILITIES:

- + ASSIST
- + INFORM
- + CONFIRM
- + PROVIDE
- + KNOW OPTIONS
- + COMMUNICATE
- + CONSULT
- + EXCEPTIONS

# STUDENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

- ✘ Rights:
  - + ADA & SECTION 504
  - + EQUAL ACCESS
  - + DENIAL?
  - + REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS
  - + CONFIDENTIALITY
- ✘ Responsibilities:
  - + SELF IDENTIFY
  - + DOCUMENTATION
  - + REQUEST
  - + PRESENT & COMMUNICATE
  - + REPORT
  - + CODE OF CONDUCT

# TESTING PROCEDURES

- ✘ Extended-Time Allotments for Examinations – extended time allotments are determined on a case-by-case basis
- ✘ **MWF Classes**
- ✘ 50 minute class
- ✘ Extended time is 30 additional minutes
- ✘ **Total time for exam: 1 hour 20 minutes**
- ✘ Double time is 50 additional minutes
- ✘ **Total time for exam: 1 hour 50 minutes**
- ✘ **TR Classes**
- ✘ 75 minute class
- ✘ Extended time is 37.5 additional minutes
- ✘ **Total time for exam: 1 hour 52 minutes**
- ✘ Double time is 75 additional minutes
- ✘ **Total time for exam: 2 hours 30 minutes**
- ✘ **Final Exams: Time and  $\frac{1}{2}$  = 3 hours and Double time= 4 hours**
- ✘ **Note: All time allotments may change according to how much time the Instructor indicates the class will receive.**
- ✘ **Note: If a student requires frequent breaks during long testing periods, the time stops when the student leaves and resumes when the student returns (maximum break time is 5 minutes).**

# FIRST DAY OF CLASS

- ✘ Review the syllabus read Disability Course Syllabus Statement
- ✘ Allow the students to introduce themselves
- ✘ Speak with the student who has self-identified after class individually if time permits or instruct the student to come to your office later during office hours



# ODS WORKING TOGETHER WITH YOU

- ✘ Seminars and trainings
- ✘ Community resource information
- ✘ Liaisons for the Disability laws
- ✘ Advocate for you as well as the student
- ✘ One on one meetings



# HELPFUL TIPS: STUDENTS WITH AUTISM



- ✘ Keep directions simple
- ✘ Use clear and detailed directives when referring to revisions that need to be made
- ✘ Ask the students to repeat the directions in his/her own words to check comprehension
- ✘ Supplement oral with written instructions
- ✘ Use clear directives and establish rules if...
  - + a student invades your space or imposes on your time
  - + the student's classroom comments or conversational volume become inappropriate
- ✘ Clearly define course requirements, the dates of exams and when assignments are due. Provide advance notice of any changes.



# HELPFUL TIPS: STUDENTS WHO ARE DEAF/HARD OF HEARING

- ✘ Speak directly to the student not the interpreter
- ✘ Maintain class lectures and discussions
- ✘ Maintain visual contact
- ✘ Captioning
- ✘ Pause periodically



# HELPFUL TIPS: STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

- ✘ Encourage frequent contact
- ✘ Be sensitive to disability-related issues
  - + Class participation alternatives
- ✘ Compose exams in a way that makes them accessible for students with learning disabilities
  - + No scantron
  - + Readers
  - + Scribes



# HELPFUL TIPS: STUDENTS WITH ADHD

- ✘ Supplement oral instructions for written instructions (on board or paper)
- ✘ Try to make class material stimulating
  - + Alternate lecture with discussions
- ✘ Provide written outlines or notes



# HELPFUL TIPS: STUDENTS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

- ✗ Wheelchair accessible classroom
- ✗ Personal care attendants
- ✗ Frequent breaks
- ✗ Good eye contact
  - + Aware of student signals
    - ✗ May want to participate
    - ✗ Medical emergency/seizure
- ✗ Provide outlines/notes



# HELPFUL TIPS: STUDENTS WITH PSYCHOLOGICAL DISABILITIES

- ✘ Encourage frequent communication
- ✘ Service animals
- ✘ Don't press students to explain their disabilities if they do not wish to do so
- ✘ Frequent breaks



# HELPFUL TIPS: STUDENTS WITH SPEECH IMPAIRMENTS

- ✘ Meet with the student early in the semester to discuss their communication styles and how they can best function in your classroom
  - + Will they be able to answer if you call on them?
  - + Will they be able to ask questions and make comments during class discussions, or do oral presentations?
- ✘ Alternates to testing and participation
- ✘ Address the student directly and ask for clarification if needed or for the student to repeat what was said



# HELPFUL TIPS: STUDENTS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS

- ✘ Preferential seating
- ✘ Large font written handouts
- ✘ Allow tape recording
- ✘ Verbal instructions
- ✘ Alternative text



# KEEP IN MIND

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- ✘ Do not ask the student about the nature of his/her disability
- ✘ Do not assume a student has a disability
- ✘ Do not demand to see their documentation
- ✘ Do provide the same customer service to students with disabilities as you would all other students
- ✘ Do assist when they ask for assistance as best you can



# SCENARIO #1

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- ✘ A student in your class that is registered with Disability Services, says that because one of the side effects of his psychotropic medication is akathisia (extreme restlessness), he needs to pace around the classroom every twenty minutes, to relieve his agitation. What is your response?
  - + RESPONSE: Protecting the rights of one student does not justify violating the rights of several others, which in this case is the right to participate and learn in the classroom. The student with akathisia must negotiate with the teacher to find a way to participate that does not interfere with the learning of the other students. Perhaps he needs more frequent breaks, or needs to arrange to have some of the lecture taped if he cannot attend the entire lecture. The law requires that the student be able to meet the essential requirements of the role; if attending is essential, he may not be able to fulfill the requirements of the student role.

# SCENARIO #2

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- ✘ You are a teacher in a large lecture course. A student approaches you mid-semester and tells you that she needs accommodations in order to take the midterm that is scheduled for next week. She claims that she is entitled to the accommodations because she has a disability. How do you respond?
  - + RESPONSE: Any student seeking an accommodation needs to register with Disability Services. Disability Services will collect required documents from the student and draft the accommodations required. The student is to submit those accommodations to his/her instructor. The teacher is entitled to know that the student has a disability, but is not entitled to the details surrounding the disability. The instructor is to discuss and negotiate with the student exactly what type of accommodation would be needed (e.g., extended time, a separate room, a proctored exam, etc.). Additionally, if the last minute timing has created an inconvenience for you, tell the student that knowing about the accommodation earlier would have helped you both.

# SCENARIO #3

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- ✘ A student rarely shows up to class, because of her disability, she/he almost never turns in assignments. How do you proceed?
  - + RESPONSE: In this situation, it may be good to take the student aside and politely talk to them about the issue of attendance. A possible conversation could begin like this:
    - ✘ Hi (Student's name). I noticed that you have missed several classes. I know that you may be having a difficult time due to your disability. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to assist you.

# OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES

## ✘ Amanda Hassan, MSW

- + City Park Campus, Charity School of Nursing, Sidney Collier Site and Northshore-Slidell Site
- + Building 2 Room 102
- + 504-671-5161
- + [ahassa@dcc.edu](mailto:ahassa@dcc.edu)

## ✘ Joseph Williams, MSW

- + West Bank Campus, and Jefferson Site
- + West Bank Campus, LaRocca Hall
- + 504-762-3191
- + [jwilli6@dcc.edu](mailto:jwilli6@dcc.edu)

# OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES

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- ✘ Questions
- ✘ OR
- ✘ Concerns
  
- ✘ Please email [ahassa@dcc.edu](mailto:ahassa@dcc.edu)

# REFERENCES

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# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- × <http://dsp.berkeley.edu/TeachStudentsWithDisab.html#5>
- × <http://yalecollege.yale.edu/content/teaching-students-disabilities-guide#1>
- × <http://ods.osu.edu/faculty/instructor-handbook-teaching-students-with-disabilities/#sixmain>
- × [Frequently Asked Questions.docx](#)
- × [www.ada.gov/2010ADAstandards\\_index.htm](http://www.ada.gov/2010ADAstandards_index.htm)
- × [www.adachecklist.org](http://www.adachecklist.org)

# THANKS

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