



Most Frequently Asked Questions

EDUCATIONAL ACCESS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Adapted from materials developed through the Ohio State University Partnership Grant
Improving the Quality of Education for Students with Disabilities

Introduction

Although enrollment rates of students with disabilities in higher education are increasing, some faculty and staff may not be aware of the many services and supports available to students with disabilities. In particular, instructional staff members may not always be aware of the types of accommodations available or what steps are involved in the accommodation process. The following is a list of frequently asked questions regarding the roles and responsibilities of faculty in providing accessible learning for students with disabilities. Although these questions address the most common of concerns, the issue of faculty responsibility is situation-specific and as such can be difficult to define. As you are confronted with some of your concerns, keep in mind that the offices providing disability services on each campus are the offices that determine appropriate accommodations. For students with psychological or physical disabilities, the responsible offices are the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at Foothill and Disability Support Services (DSS) at De Anza. For students with learning disabilities, the responsible offices are the Student Tutorial Evaluation Program (STEP) at Foothill and the Educational Diagnostic Center (EDC) at De Anza.

We hope that you find the following questions to be a quick and useful resource guide, but we encourage you to contact the disability services office on your campus when you are in doubt about how best to meet the needs of a student with a disability.

Q: Who is responsible for determining appropriate accommodations?

A: The disability services offices on each campus have the legal obligation and the professional expertise to determine appropriate accommodations. The professional staff of counselors and learning disability specialists has been designated by the District to do so. They base their decisions upon documentation collected from a student with a disability and the student's functional limitations. Faculty should not provide ad hoc accommodations without consultation with the disability services specialists on their campus.

Q: Are all students with disabilities registered with disability services?

A: No, it is likely that some students with disabilities have chosen not to be registered or they may not have completed the required documentation and intake process to establish eligibility. In either instance, faculty should not provide these students with accommodations.

Q: What would be the best way to inform students in the class that I would like to help in facilitating exam accommodations or other classroom accommodations?

