



WHITTIER COLLEGE

STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES

AN INTRODUCTION TO STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES (SDS)

SDS IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING EQUAL TREATMENT, EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY, ACADEMIC FREEDOM, AND HUMAN DIGNITY FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING, PHYSICAL/MEDICAL, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL/PSYCHIATRIC DISABILITIES AT WHITTIER COLLEGE.

SDS WORKS WITH STUDENTS WITH A BROAD RANGE OF DISABILITIES, INCLUDING:

- ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER
- AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER
- SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITIES
- MEDICAL CONDITIONS
- PSYCHOLOGICAL/MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS
- TEMPORARY CONDITIONS (CONCUSSION, INJURIES, ETC.)
- VISUAL DISABILITIES
- PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

STUDENTS WHO HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER THEIR CONDITION QUALIFIES AS A DISABILITY ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT SDS. DETAILS OF A STUDENT'S DISABILITY ARE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL WITHIN THE SDS OFFICE.

SDS DETERMINES ELIGIBILITY AND APPROVES ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS THAT MAY INCLUDE:

- EXTENDED TIME ON EXAMS
- REDUCED DISTRACTION TESTING ENVIRONMENT
- ABILITY TO STEP OUT OF CLASS
- NOTE-TAKING SERVICES
- RECORDING LECTURES
- ATTENDANCE MODIFICATION

ACCOMMODATIONS CANNOT FUNDAMENTALLY ALTER COURSE/ PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS. SDS STAFF ARE AVAILABLE TO CONSULT WITH INSTRUCTORS REGARDING ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT ACCOMMODATIONS.

INSTRUCTORS ARE NOTIFIED OF APPROVED ACCOMMODATIONS VIA EMAIL FROM SDS STAFF. ACCOMMODATIONS THAT REQUIRE NEGOTIATION, SUCH AS ATTENDANCE MODIFICATION, ARE INCLUDED IN

THE NOTIFICATION EMAIL. INSTRUCTORS WHO HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT NEGOTIATED ACCOMMODATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT SDS.

THE STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTIVATING AND UTILIZING THEIR APPROVED ACCOMMODATIONS. IF A STUDENT REACHES OUT TO THEIR INSTRUCTOR IN REGARDS TO MANAGING THEIR ACCOMMODATIONS, INSTRUCTORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO DIRECT THE STUDENT TO SDS.

SDS ALSO OFFERS THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTS AND SERVICES TO STUDENTS:

- ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (KURZWEIL & BOOKSHARE)
- HOUSING & MEAL PLAN ACCOMMODATIONS
- CHECK-IN AND CONSULTATION APPOINTMENTS WITH SDS STAFF
- REFERRALS & POTENTIAL FUNDING FOR DISABILITY EVALUATION/ TESTING FOR STUDENTS WHO QUALIFY

WHITTIER COLLEGE IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE EQUAL ACCESS THROUGH ACCOMMODATIONS BY THREE FEDERAL LAWS:

- THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973
- THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990
- THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AMENDMENT ACT OF 2008

LEGISLATION MANDATES THAT COLLEGES PROVIDE REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES TO ALLOW THEM EQUAL ACCESS TO PROGRAMS. AS SUCH, FACULTY AND STAFF PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN ENSURING COMPLIANCE BY ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. SDS IS AVAILABLE TO CONSULT WITH FACULTY AND STAFF ABOUT THEIR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE ACCOMMODATIONS PROCESS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ACCESS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

- ALL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AT WHITTIER COLLEGE SHOULD BE ACCESSIBLE TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. IN SOME CASES, INDIVIDUALIZED ACCOMMODATIONS MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO ENSURE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HAVE FULL AND EQUAL ACCESS TO EVERY PART OF THE WHITTIER CAMPUS EXPERIENCE. THESE ACCOMMODATIONS ARE THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITY OF SDS.
- STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES SHOULD BE TREATED WITH THE SAME RESPECT AND HELD TO THE SAME ACADEMIC STANDARDS, EXPECTATIONS, AND CODE OF CONDUCT AS ALL STUDENTS OF WHITTIER COLLEGE. ACCOMMODATIONS DO NOT CHANGE THE EXPECTATIONS OR REQUIREMENTS OF COURSES, PROGRAMS, OR DEGREES.
- THE DETAILS OF A STUDENT'S DISABILITY ARE PRIVATE. WHILE A STUDENT MUST SELF-DISCLOSE THEIR DISABILITY TO SDS, THEY DO NOT HAVE TO DISCLOSE TO INSTRUCTORS, ADVISORS, OR OTHER COLLEGE OFFICIALS. ANY INFORMATION A STUDENT SELF-DISCLOSES TO INSTRUCTORS, FACULTY, AND/OR STAFF IN REGARDS TO THEIR DISABILITY AND/OR CONDITIONS MUST BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL PER FERPA RESPONSIBILITIES.
- A STUDENT'S DISABILITY MAY NOT BE VISIBLY APPARENT. PLEASE EXERCISE AWARENESS WHEN INTERACTING WITH STUDENTS, AND DO NOT QUESTION OR DOUBT THE PRESENCE OF A DISABILITY JUST BECAUSE IT IS NOT APPARENT.
- STUDENTS WHO DISCLOSE A DISABILITY TO INSTRUCTORS, FACULTY, AND/OR STAFF SHOULD BE REFERRED TO SDS TO LEARN ABOUT WHAT RESOURCES AND SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE TO THEM. SIMPLE REFERRAL STATEMENTS SUCH AS, "THAT SOUNDS LIKE A CONCERN SDS WOULD BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS WITH YOU. DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEIR OFFICE IS?" OR "DID YOU KNOW WHITTIER HAS A DISABILITY SERVICES OFFICE?" ARE POSITIVE AND SUPPORTING WHILE RESPECTING THE STUDENT'S PRIVACY. IF YOU HAVE THIS TYPE OF DISCUSSION WITH A STUDENT, PLEASE BE SURE IT TAKES PLACE IN YOUR OFFICE OR DISCRETELY BEFORE/AFTER CLASS TO RESPECT CONFIDENTIALITY.
- ACCOMMODATIONS ARE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH EQUAL ACCESS AND REDUCE THE BARRIERS STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES MAY FACE. ACCOMMODATIONS ARE NOT SPECIAL TREATMENT OR AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.
- EACH MEMBER OF THE WHITTIER COLLEGE COMMUNITY PLAYS A ROLE IN CREATING AN ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT AT WHITTIER. IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR FACULTY AND STAFF TO CONSIDER ACCESSIBILITY AS THEY DEVELOP, PLAN, AND IMPLEMENT CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES.
- THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ARE PROTECTED UNDER FEDERAL LAW. THEY ARE CONSIDERED A MINORITY GROUP AND SHOULD BE VALUED FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR DIVERSE CAMPUS COMMUNITY. AT WHITTIER, DISABILITY IS SEEN AS AN ASPECT OF DIVERSITY.

WHEN IN DOUBT, REACH OUT! SDS STAFF ARE AVAILABLE FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR CONSULTATIONS REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS AND WORKING WITH STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.