

From: Kim Bartlett
To: allusers
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Subject: Disabilities Awareness Month
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October is Disabilities Awareness Month. In celebration, we would like to provide you with the answers to some of the questions that we are most frequently asked. This week's question is "What is the role of DSPS?". More questions and answers will follow in the coming weeks.

Kim Bartlett
Director, DSPS
Cypress College/SCE

The Role of DSPS

The Disabled Students Program and Services (DSPS) Office coordinates the provision of federally mandated services to qualified students with disabilities. While laws such as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans With Disabilities Act require that all programs and facilities be accessible to individuals with disabilities, the provision of services on campus is actually a responsibility shared by faculty, staff and administrators.

Students are eligible for services and accommodations from DSPS if they have a verified disability that results in functional limitations in an academic setting. Students served by DSPS fall into the following categories of disability: Hearing, Vision, Learning Disability, Mobility, Acquired Brain Injury, Psychological, Developmentally Delayed, Speech and Language and Other. Services and accommodations are based on individual needs. Thus, not all students with a particular disability receive the same services.

Among the services provided by DSPS to eligible students with disabilities are:

- Academic counseling
- Learning Disability assessment
- Test accommodations (extended time, distraction-reduced room, etc.)
- Alternate media (enlarged print, books on CD, adapted software, etc.)
- Note taking assistance
- Adaptive furniture (height-adjustable table, padded chair, etc.)
- High-Tech computer lab
- Sign language interpreting

DSPS contact information:

Office: 1st floor CC Complex

Phone: (714) 484-7104

(714) 761-0961 (TDD)

(714) 826-4032 (Fax)

Learning Disabilities

What does it mean to have a learning disability? What can students with learning disabilities expect from college and employers?

A learning disability is a chronic, permanent condition which can affect people with average to above average intelligence evidenced by a pattern of uneven abilities along with a processing problem presumed to be due to a central nervous system dysfunction (taking in, sorting and retrieving information).

College instructors expect all their students to satisfactorily complete their classes. They want their students to be successful and are willing to provide appropriate accommodations, without penalty, to students with disabilities. Classroom peers may or may not be aware of the accommodations another student receives. If students believe they would benefit from accommodations, they are encouraged to make an appointment with the Learning Disabilities Specialist.

Learning disabilities accommodations are not listed on transcripts. Employers would not know of or be informed about any disability unless the applicant disclosed it.