

What Is The Office of Disability Support Services?

We offer learning centered academic support and provide equal access to quality education. Our program is free and offers comprehensive services to meet the needs of a wide range of disabilities. We are responsible for counseling, planning, and coordinating programs and support services. Our mission is to assist students in reaching their academic potential and achieving their educational goals. The college encourages the enrollment of students with disabilities and recognizes their special needs. Students who have a disability that requires special assistance should contact the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS).



Who Is Eligible?

If you have a disability that is documented, you may be eligible for our services. Eligible disabilities include learning disabilities, visual impairments, hearing impairments, speech impairments, physical impairments, chronic illnesses and/or emotional/psychological impairments. If you believe you have a disability, even if it is not documented, you should contact the Office of Disability Support Services to determine your eligibility for the program.

When Should I Request Services?

If your documented disability affects your academics or your ability to participate in college programs, and you believe accommodations would be helpful, bring your documentation to the Office of Disability Support Services as soon as possible. If you suspect you have a disability or have questions or concerns about your eligibility, you should contact our office immediately.

How Do I Request Services?

Students who choose to disclose their disability to receive accommodations must complete the Student Disability Information Sheet and Release of Information forms, which are available in the Office of Disability Support Services. In addition, students must provide documentation of their disability. Because requirements vary according to disability, please contact our office for your individual documentation requirements.

Confidentiality

All documentation given to the Office of Disability Support Services will be kept confidential. This information will only be used for aiding you, the student, in achieving your fullest potential while at Gulf Coast State College. Staff members may sometimes need to work with your instructors to arrange accommodations.

What Services Are Available?

Reasonable, appropriate accommodations are based on your documented needs. The Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) routinely offers a wide variety of student-orientated workshops on study skills, transfer tips, and many other subjects. In our office you will also find a wide variety of equipment, software, and educational supplies. DSS offers some items for check-out. Please check with the office for available items.

In addition, we offer a wide range of services, which include, but are not limited to:

For Students with Visual Impairments:

- Adaptive equipment
- Assistance with library materials
- Enlargers
- Materials in alternative format
- Note taker and/or scribe
- Registration assistance
- Reader
- Referral to recordings for the Blind & Dyslexic for textbooks on tape
- Testing accommodations, i.e. readers, scribes, alternative format, adaptive equipment, and/or extended time
- Tutorial assistance

For Students with Hearing Impairments:

- Access to TDD equipment
- Assistive listening devices
- Note taker
- Priority classroom seating
- Registration assistance
- Sign language interpreters
- Testing accommodations
- Tutorial assistance
- When possible, course outlines, lecture notes, and list of technical terms

**For Students with
Physical/Mobility/Medical Disabilities:**

- Accessible classroom furniture
- Adaptive technology & computer equipment
- Assistance with library materials
- Campus access information
- Note taker and/or scribe
- Registration assistance
- Lab assistance arrangements
- Testing accommodations, i.e. extended time, scribe, reader, adaptive equipment
- Tutorial assistance

For Students with Learning Disabilities:

- Note taker and/or scribe
- Registration assistance
- Referral to recordings for the Blind & Dyslexic for textbooks on tape
- Testing accommodations, i.e. readers, scribes, distraction free exam area, and/or extended time, computers for essay exams
- Tutorial assistance

**For Students with
Psychiatric/Emotional Disabilities:**

- Disability counseling & advocacy
- Note taker
- Referral to off-campus counseling services
- Testing accommodations, i.e. extended time, distraction free area
- Tutorial assistance
- Registration assistance

Staff

Linda Van Dalen – Coordinator
Diane Randall – Assistant Coordinator
Holli Mast – Learning Specialist
Elaine Poston – Learning Specialist
Kristi Krutcheck – Learning Specialist
Kiki Hendrix – Interpreter
Jalinda Richardson - Interpreter
Sandra Thompson - Interpreter
Tamara Nguyen – DSS Assistant
Daniel Chambers – DSS Assistant
Alicia Davis – DSS Assistant

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Tutoring Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

(Hours may vary during holidays and summer semesters)

Location

Disability Support Services is located on the first floor of Student Union East.

Gulf Coast State College
Office of Disability Support Services
5230 U.S. Hwy 98
Panama City, FL 32401
(850) 872-3834
www.gulfcoast.edu
Florida Relay: 711

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Disability Support Services

at

Gulf Coast State College



.....Because a
disability isn't
always a
visibility!