

DISABLED STUDENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

**Accreditation Update
2009**

Mission Statement: Since its inception in 1975, Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) at College of the Redwoods (CR) has grown to serve an average of 1200 students with disabilities. The major objective of the DSPS office at CR is to assure educational access for students with disabilities. DSPS concentrates its efforts on providing services that are not available elsewhere in the college.

Post-secondary institutions must take steps to ensure that students with disabilities are not excluded from programs because of the absence of educational auxiliary aides. The appropriate educational accommodations to ensure access will vary from one student to the next because each student with a disability will have a different level and style of functioning-even within the same disability category. Federal law states that “No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States...shall, solely, by reason of his handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” Further, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) extends federal civil right protection. It prohibits excluding people from jobs, services, activities, or benefits based on disability. The DSPS department is guided by the Implementing Guidelines for Title 5 Regulations of the ADA.

DSPS served over 1200 students on the campuses of CR district wide last academic year. Approximately 17% of the student population is identified as having a disability. DSPS provides a variety of programs and services to these students including a number of guidance classes, all designed to improve the educational success of students with disabilities. Students can enroll in these classes and be provided with instructional support designed for students with learning challenges. Some of the guidance classes offer specialized assistance in learning adaptive hardware and software to mitigate the impact of his/her disability. Testing for learning disability is also offered through DSPS. Last academic year 62 individuals across the campuses were tested through this process. There are also adaptive PE classes designed for students with physical issues.

DSPS also provides accommodations to students with disabilities. These include such services as extended time on exams, note-taking assistance, sign language interpreters for the deaf, alternate media services, mobility services and adaptive technology. These are available to students with verified disabilities. The DSPS office assists students in obtaining the appropriate documentation to allow them to secure our services and programs.

Over the years, the student demographics have changed significantly. Below is the most current distribution available (2007-08)

TABLE 1

Disability Category	# of Students Primary Disability	% of Total	# of Students Secondary Disability	% of Total
Learning Disabled	283	23.2	2	.8
Acquired Brain Injury	40	3.3	1	.4
Mobility Impaired	337	27.6	52	19
Hearing Impaired	37	3.1	1	.4
Speech/Language Impaired	3	.3	2	.8
Psychological Disability	234	19.3	135	49.8
Developmentally Delayed Learner	60	5	146	5.2
Visually Impaired	22	1.7	6	2.2
Other Disability	202	16.5	58	21.3
Totals	1218	100	271	100

As the demographics change, so do the types of accommodations that are provided to students. TABLE 2 outlines the accommodations provided to students during the past academic year.

TABLE 2 (2008-9)

TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION	NUMBER OF STUDENTS
Need note-taker in class	388
Number of Classes	787
Interpreter	5
Oral Interpreter	1
Mobility Assistance	
Scooter	14
Van Transport	66
Audio Visual Equipment	
Victor Wave	97
Tape Recorder	115
Enlarged Text	3
Alpha Smart	4
Phonic Ear	1
Zoomtext	3
Dragon Naturally Speaking	6
TI83 Calculator	3
Use of Laptop	6
Accommodative Computer	2
Kurzweil	8
Alternate Media/Taped Texts	
Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic	97
Alt-media	69
Temporary Medical Parking	5
Instructional Support	451
Facilities/Special Equipment	
Special Table	21
Special Chair	29
CC TV	1
Ergo Keyboard	1
Test/Quiz Taking Facilitation	728
Breaks During Tests	31
Scribe/Transcription	13
Reader	1
Module	658
Spell Checker	22
Calculator	29
Computer	11

DSPS programs, services and activities do not duplicate other service on campus. Because DSPS cannot duplicate college services/instruction, it is important to show how the services and programs offered are unique and specifically geared to the student served. All services provided by DSPS are analyzed to determine if the service can be provided by another area of campus in a timely and equal manner. If so, the student is referred to that specific area. If adjustments are needed within that area to service a particular student, then DSPS will assist in coordinating or putting the adjustment in place.

DSPS provides training to individual departments on how to effectively accommodate students with disabilities within their departments so as to not exclude them. DSPS regularly participates in new faculty orientations, associate faculty orientations, Residence Hall and Student Athlete orientations and contacts with college success classes to improve outreach and awareness to students.

All student responsibilities and rights in requesting and negotiating services, as well as other services, are in written format in the DSPS Student Resource Guide. The DSPS Student Resource Guide is issued to a student upon intake and completion of Application to DSPS and is available at each campus location upon request. The DSPS Student Resource Guide is posted on the DSPS website and is available in alternate formats.