



OUR DSP FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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FACULTY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) Why are counselors putting students in our classes when they are not prepared?

First of all, unfortunately, some students enroll in courses without ever seeing a SCC counselor and they are able to do so especially if there are no pre-requisites in place to deter them.

2) But in the case when students are meeting with a SCC counselor, why are they put into our courses when they are not prepared?

If a student has gone through proper matriculation, meaning they have taken our SCC assessment, provided high school or other transcripts, and have had an appointment with one of our counselors then it is at that point there is a discussion with all students for the need to meet course advisories, pre-requisites, and academic plus personal preparation to be successful. Counselors recommend, and facilitate. Counselors do not enroll or advise students to enroll in courses where a student has not demonstrated adequate academic preparation through assessment results, completed pre-requisites, or other multiple measures for SCC curriculum.

3) I would like notice ahead of time of all the names of DSP students in my classes so I can be prepared to help them. Why can't I get this list?

As good, of a sentiment, as this is, we cannot release the names of students who are participating in our program because the "Privacy Act" protects our students from being discriminated against. Naming people with disabilities without their consent is a way of making them different from others and therefore, a discriminatory practice. The "real issue" in helping our SCC students is in providing accommodations that mitigate the negative impact imposed by the educational limitation that derives from the documented medical condition or disability.

4) What is the process for proctoring tests for my SCC students with disabilities?

After our DSP faculty/counselor authorizes test-taking accommodations for our SCC students, they meet with our front desk, to go over in detail the test-taking procedure. Our staff meets individually with each student to go over step by step the student's responsibility in ensuring they receive their test taking accommodations without any problems. After this meeting the student is asked to sign a form that acknowledges they understand this process using our "routing slip procedure". We have taken extra steps to help cut back on any misunderstandings that the student may have and the student's personal responsibility is emphasized in this process. If you should have any questions or concerns, please call our friendly front staff at 864-7136.

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5) How come all of the DSP students get extra time for their exams; that doesn't seem fair to all the other students?

Well, it may appear that all students with disabilities receive that accommodation; however, it is just that, an appearance. The majority of our students do utilize this accommodation; however, it is only authorized by a DSP faculty/counselor, when there is a significant impact imposed by the student's medical condition or in the case of a documented Learning Disability. When a SCC student meets with one of our DSP counselors, there is a discussion regarding their medical condition, symptoms of the condition, i.e. acute or chronic pain, poor concentration, side effects of medications or other medical interventions/treatment that impacts the student significantly in at least one of the seven major life activities. By the way, when studies have been done in the past giving extra time to all students (who don't have a disability) for exams there is no notable difference in the outcome of their tests. Only when a student is significantly impacted through an educational limitation derived from a disability do we see an improvement in the individual's overall scores.

6) Boy, some of these DSP students are very disruptive and difficult. Why do I have to put up with this? Just because of the ADA?

Classroom disruption is really nothing to joke about. Promoting a safe, open and nurturing learning environment for all of our SCC students is a pivotal part of the learning process. Unfortunately for a few of our students, SCC is the only place where some can feel safe and supported. So disruptive behavior by any SCC student that detracts or compromises learning should not be tolerated; regardless of whether a student has a documented disability or not. All students are required to follow the code of conduct spelled out in the Student Services "student code and conduct" pamphlet. (Please see your dean for this literature) If you have good reason, to believe that the student who is having problems in your class is part of our program (they would hopefully have disclosed to you regarding possible accommodations authorized to them) then please contact the DSP office and discuss what's going on with one of our faculty/counselors so we may help you problem solve. Naturally, if behaviors become unsafe or escalate please contact your dean or the Campus Police.

