Reducing Barriers for Students with Disabilities

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Disability Resource Center

Disability Resource Center Mission

- The mission of the Disability Resource Center (DRC) is to create an accessible, inclusive, sustainable learning environment, where disability is recognized as an aspect of diversity that is integral to the campus community and to society.

Philosophy of Center

Social Justice
- Based on the concepts of human rights and equality
- Demands that people have equal rights and opportunities
- Full inclusion and participation
- Freedom from discrimination

Reframing Disability

- Disability is a difference
- Disability, in itself, is neutral
- "Disability" is derived from the interaction between the individual and society
- The environment is the focus of remedy and the agent of intervention can be anyone who can affect the design of the environment.

Accommodations

- Accommodations are determined by an interactive process with an Access Consultant.
- Accommodations are a legal requirement.

Letter of Accommodation

- Students who receive accommodations are required to give instructors a letter of accommodation.
Accommodation Procedures

What Is the Instructor’s Responsibility?

Test Scheduling
- In order to schedule a test, a test scheduling form is completed before the test.
- The student completes his/her portion.
- The instructor completes his/her portion.
- The form is given to the Disability Resource Center.
- The instructor will send the test to the Center.

Note Taking
- If a student needs help obtaining a notetaker, he/she will give the instructor a Note-Taking Accommodation Card.
- The instructor can announce the need for a notetaker.
- Once a notetaker is secured, the instructor would send the notetaker to the Disability Resource Center.

Getting Materials in Advance
- The student and instructor need to work together to determine a system for the student to receive materials in advance.

Extensions on Assignments
- The student and the instructor need to determine a process for the student to access this accommodation.
Occasional Absences

- The student and instructor would benefit from discussing a process for the student to alert the instructor to disability-related absences.

Interaction

Conversations

- Create a safe and open environment to discuss accommodations and/or course materials.
- Recognize differing opinions come from different backgrounds, but all are with good intentions.
- A willingness to examine what we think we know and challenge ourselves to see where we can think differently.

Questions?

- Contact the Disability Resource Center
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