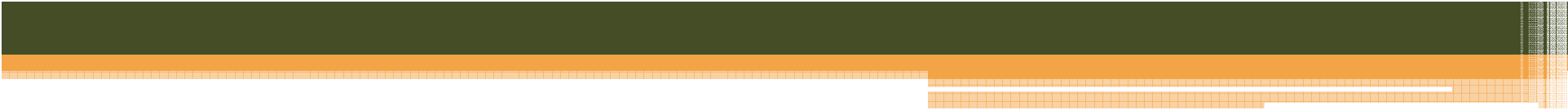


# Serving Students with Disabilities at New Jersey City University

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## Definition of Disability in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- Mental or Physical Condition
- Substantial Limitation
  - Significantly restricted as to the condition, manner, or duration compared to the condition, manner, or duration under which the average person in the general population can perform that same major life activity.
- Major Life Activity
  - Major life activities include but are not limited to: caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, **learning, reading, concentrating, thinking,** communicating and working.

## Section 504 of *The Rehabilitation Act of 1973*

- Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973* protects the rights of individuals with disabilities in programs and activities that receive federal funds. Section 504 provides that: “No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States . . . shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, 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 . . .” <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, as amended, 29 U.S.C. 794



## **Higher Education and Disabilities in NJ**

- No otherwise qualified individual with a disability shall, solely by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any such entity.
- Otherwise Qualified-A person must be able to meet the technical and academic qualifications for entry into the school, program, or activity in order to be considered otherwise qualified.



## Obligations in Higher Education

### *Institutional*

- Provide **reasonable accommodations** for the student's known disabilities
- Demonstrate a **good faith effort** to provide the student with meaningful access

### *Student*

- **Self identify** that she/he has a disability
- Provide appropriate **documentation** of disability
- Request **accommodations**

## Documentation Required by the University

- Medical Records
- Psychiatric Evaluation
- Results of Diagnostic Assessment
  - Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
  - Psychological Evaluation (WAIS)
  - Educational/Learning Assessment



## **OSS Policies/Procedures**

- Acceptance to NJCU
- Student self-identifies or is referred
- Documentation reviewed
- Intake interview
- Student completes accommodation request form
- Accommodation request notice sent or delivered to the faculty member



## **Accommodations: Testing**

- **Distraction limited environment**
- **Spell-check or hand-held speller**
- **Word processing for essay exams**
- **Extended time (in face to face and online courses)**
- **Calculator**
- **Text-to-speech software for reading support**



## **Accommodations: In the Classroom**

- Sign language interpreter
- Assistive listening systems
- Providing hand-outs in electronic format
- Note-taking support:
  - Student note-takers
    - AlphaSmart/NEO/dana
  - Tape-recording lectures
    - Pulse Pen-<http://www.livescribe.com/en-us/>



## **Accommodations: Assignments**

- **Installing special software in computer labs and/or libraries:**
  - **Screen magnification** for a student with visual impairments
  - **Talking word-processing** for students with learning disabilities
  - **Scan/read** systems for students with learning disabilities or visual impairments
  - Making course **web sites** (or online course systems) **accessible**



# Assistive Technology

- **Ways we work with students and faculty**
  - *Teaching students to use technology as a reasonable accommodation*
  - *Partnership with Adaptive Technology Center for NJ Colleges at TCNJ*



The College of New Jersey:  
Adaptive Technology Center  
For New Jersey Colleges

# HOW CAN THE OSS HELP YOU?

- We can discuss with you:
  - Legal responsibilities of colleges/universities
  - Policies and procedures
  - Documentation requirements
  - Appropriate accommodations
  - Individual cases
  - Disability-specific questions
  - Teaching strategies to assist all learners
- You may also visit our website at:  
<http://web.njcu.edu/programs/oss> for additional information and resources.
- We cannot discuss a particular student's disability or status in the OSS unless the student has already self-disclosed to you.

# HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Syllabus Statement (e.g., If there is any student in this class who has special needs because of learning disabilities or other disabilities please contact the Office of Specialized Services @ 201-200-2557)
- Make Appropriate Referrals
- Be Firm
- Be Consistent
- Establish clear guidelines
- Try to avoid last minute changes
- When possible use a multisensory approach
- Attend OSS Sponsored Events to Learn more!
  - Disability Awareness Day-April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011
  - Annual Conference-December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

# Remember

- Be sensitive, provide reasonable supports, but always maintain academic and behavioral standards.

