

Accessibility Services

What faculty need to know...

Accessibility Services Office

Jamestown Community College

Meet the Staff

- Coordinator
: Don Pool
- Regular office hours at each campus
- ~ 1 day /
wk
in Olean
- ~
Monthly and as needed in
Dunkirk

Don Pool

And,

- Assistive Tech/ Alt
Media Specialists:
Marlana Hitchcock
and Jennifer Smith

- Jennifer and
Marlana are based
at the Jamestown
campus, but serve
students college
-
wide

Marlana and Jennifer

Tech and Testing Support in Olean and Dunkirk

-
- Chriss Bouch
-
- The Learning Center
-
- Cattaraugus Campus

- Chriss
- - Jennifer Coe
 -
 - Academic Support Center
 -
 - North County Center

Jennifer with student

The Legal Background: Equal Access...

bs00503_

- Section 504 of Rehab Act of
1973

- Americans with Disabilities
Act

- Both proclaim that qualified
students with disabilities have
the right to
reasonable
modifications
in all campus
programs and services.

The ADA and 504 are about
civil rights
, as opposed
to the special education laws in high school.

On the left is a picture showing three individuals standing on the same
size boxes watching a baseball game. The person on the left is too tall,
the person in the middle is the correct height, and the person on the
right cannot see over the fence.
On the right are the same people, but standing on the appropriate boxes,
all three can now see the game fairly.

High School Special Education

Special Ed laws, like the IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), for primary and secondary education are designed to ensure student success, along with broadly defined ways and means for doing so.

Verses College

IEPs (Individualized Education Plans) are special ed "prescriptions" for helping students in K

-

12 be as successful as they can be.

There are no IEPs at the college

-

level.

Different Legal Aims

- Special Ed (HS)
- Seeks to
guarantee
success
- Ends with
graduation
- Civil Rights Law (College)
- ADA/504 emphasis
is on
access
- Students are entitled
to reasonable
accommodations to
"level the playing
field"
- Students must meet
the same academic
standards
as their
classmates

In College

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Students have the right to accessible accommodations.

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Professors cannot deny or change accommodations, though questions and discussion with the Accessibilities Services Office are always welcome. The ASO may be able to offer appropriate alternatives, especially where accommodations could fundamentally alter the course or become an undue burden.

picture showing different possible paths.

What is
"reasonable"
is determined between the
ASO and the student, based on:

- What the student requests.
- Documentation the student
provides that verifies need.
- Whether the accommodation
is appropriate for course/
classroom.

•
Note: the college is not
obligated to provide
accommodations that would
fundamentally alter the
curriculum

Picture showing a handshake over an agreement

The student will deliver...

An accommodation letter
from the ASO about
his/her specific
classroom or testing
needs.

picture of a bird delivering a letter

While such accommodations are not optional and are not left to the discretion of the instructor...

null

.
The ASO coordinator encourages and welcomes consultation, questions, and concerns.

.
If you feel an accommodation is unsuitable for your course or a particular class (e.g. field trips, labs), please call to discuss if an equivalent adjustment is appropriate.

You and the student will need to work out
the
logistics
of testing accommodations..

•

When the student delivers his/her accommodation letter
you'll need to work out
when
and
where
tests will be
taken..

•

**Students taking accommodated and make up or other
tests in The Learning Centers are video monitored
-
recordings are stored short
-
term

Usual Testing Logistics

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Where

-

The Learning Centers in Jamestown and Olean, and the Academic Support Center in Dunkirk have testing facilities and staff available during posted hours

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When

-

Normally students should take their tests at the same time as the rest of the class (to allay concerns about test security...)

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Please note:
Sometimes a student may need to take his/her test at a different time to accommodate the need for extended time or use of assistive technology

What About Students Taking Classes Online?

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Students in online courses will deliver their accommodation letters via email.

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If your course has timed tests you may be asked to extend the testing "window". Up to double time is usually ample. Many professors just remove the time limit.

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Cori Dunagan, academic tech support coordinator, can provide technical guidance, if needed.

Assistive Tech

Sometimes a student's accommodations will include use of specialized hardware, software or services...

Our assistive tech and alt media specialists, can help by:

- Converting your tests into accessible format
 - audio, large
 - print, Braille, etc.
- Procuring textbooks in alternate media
- Training students to use assistive tech

Where is this Assistive Tech

...
?

- At each campus' Learning
Center we have:

- Kurzweil
or Read & Write Gold
reading and writing software (for
visually
-
impaired and LD)

- Dragon Naturally Speaking
dictation software (for physically
-
impaired and/or LD)

- iPads
with
Siri
for dictation

- CCTV
s
(pictured right) for
enlargement

- SmartPens
, digital recorders,
and laptops
for loan or
classroom use

- Many other types of specialized
software and equipment

picture of a section of a book enlarged on a CCTV device

Auxiliary Aids and Services...

You may also be asked to assist with:

- Helping the student find a classmate who will serve as
a note
-
taker or scribe
- Find seating for a classroom aide, or sign
-
language
interpreter
- Forwarding your syllabi and/or classroom material to
us so we can arrange for alternate media

How Do I Create Accessible Instructional Materials?

- The Accessibility Services office can give guidance
and assistance in creating accessible documents.

- Utilizing Universal Design

- Our partners in the office of Tech Enhanced
Instruction can assist with

- Blackboard accessibility (extending test time limits, etc.)

- Assistance with creating accessible documents

- Video captioning: DIY instruction

TEI team:

- Stan Skrabut, Director

- Tech Enhanced Instruction

- Cori Dunagan, Academic Tech Support Coordinator, Distance Learning

- Connie Pilato, Academic Technology Support Specialist

"

I have a student who..."

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Seems like s/he might have disability issues that may affect his/her academics

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Or, tells me s/he has a disability and needs certain accommodations

But.....

The student doesn't have a letter...

Please, give us a call and refer your student to us

By doing so, you're helping ensure accommodations that may be arranged are fair, consistent, and appropriate.

Remember, students with disabilities must meet the same academic standards and conduct codes as their classmates..

And, over

-
accommodating students can undermine

-
Their independence and their growing sense of adult responsibility

-
Your course's academic integrity

-
Give the appearance of specialized treatment (unfair advantage to one student over others)

•
Not sure what to do, or how to handle a situation?
Please,
give a call!

A word or two about privacy...

.
Disability
-
related info is
confidential

.
The ASO may not have
the student's permission
to discuss the nature of
the student's disability,
but
can
discuss the
student's needs in the
classroom and testing
environment.
Don't
hesitate to call...

picture of a man spying by listening through a wall

You may ask a student about
her/his disability

-

related needs...

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Some students will welcome
your interest, but...

•

You should not ask about
their specific disability (what
it is, severity...), though they
may self

-

disclose

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Your discretion and
understanding of their right
to privacy is appreciated...

null

Some Practical Matters...

- Evacuation Procedures for Mobility
-
Impaired Individuals
- For all emergencies
except fire or
earthquake
use the elevator
- If you are unsure what kind of emergency
exists, use the Stairs or Area of Rescue
Assistance
- Areas of Rescue Assistance are
- Labeled
- Located in the stairwells of upper floors
- Equipped with emergency phones

"The Elevator is Out of Service..."

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If you have a mobility

-

impaired student and the elevator is out of service...

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Upper

-

story classes may have to be temporarily moved to an accessible location.

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Work with division assistants and/or Buildings & Grounds, or ASO to find an accessible place

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It is not adequate to substitute access to the classroom with copies of lecture notes or private meetings, especially if outage is expected to last more than a day or two.

...Thanks!

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-
1251

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