

AP 5140 Disabled Student Programs and Services

Reference:

Title 5 Sections 56000 et seq.

The District maintains a plan for the provision of programs and services to disabled students designed to assure that they have equality of access to District classes and programs.

1. Program Description

- A. Disabled Student Program and Services provides support services, specialized instruction, and educational accommodations to students with disabilities so that they can participate as fully and benefit as equitably from the college experience as their non-disabled peers. An Academic Accommodations and Education Plan is developed for each student which links student goals, the curriculum program. And academic accommodations to his/her specific disability related educational limitation.

2. Goal of the program

- A. Mission: Taft College's Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) focuses on serving students with disabilities through assistance in acquiring academic knowledge at all levels, promoting a life-long desire for learning, developing and increasing the understanding and appreciation of diversity, and aiding in preparing students for personal, academic, and vocational success. Through a collaborative process with Taft College instructors, staff, and with local, state and federal agencies, we endeavor to align students with appropriate services as they transition from high school, to college, and beyond.
- B. Program learning outcomes: Through participation in the Disabled Student Programs and Services, students are expected to consistently demonstrate the use of their academic accommodations, including the use of assistive technology (as appropriate), to demonstrate the ability to consistently implement a new strategy or skill that mitigates their academic functional limitations, independently, and to successfully negotiate their academic accommodations with their instructors.

3. Definition of disabilities and students eligible for the program

- A. Title 5 defines the specific disability categories for MIS-coding; the Taft College DSPS Learning Specialist uses Title 5 guidelines to determine specific students' eligibility for services specific to the students' individual educational limitations based upon the receipt and review of documented professional verification of qualifying disabilities.

4. Support services and instruction that is provided

- A. Upon receipt of a Request for Services form from a student, an intake appointment will be scheduled as soon as possible with the Learning Specialist. Specific services and accommodations are determined on a case-by-case basis by the Learning Specialist, who assesses the student's educational limitations. Interim accommodations may be provided.
- B. Examples of services available through DSPS include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Assessment for learning disabilities
 - ii. Specialized counseling
 - iii. Interpreter services for hearing-impaired or deaf students
 - iv. Note taker services
 - v. Reader services
 - vi. Alternate media
 - vii. Specialized tutoring
 - viii. Access to adaptive equipment
 - ix. Loan of specialized equipment
 - x. Summer Bridge program
 - xi. Priority registration and registration assistance
 - xii. Special parking
 - xiii. Test taking facilitation
 - xiv. Use of calculator
 - xv. Speech recognition program
 - xvi. Specialized instruction
- C. Assistive and instructional computer technology are available to eligible students. DSPS staff provide training specific to the technology and equipment. Use of the technology is available in the High Tech Lab located in the Taft College Administrative Services Building, near the DSPS offices. DSPS strives to use incorporate new technology as needed.

5. Verification of disability

- A. Students seeking DSPS services must present written documentation by a licensed or certificated professional verifying their disability(ies)
 - b. DSPS professional staff may, through personal observation, verify the existence of an observable disability. Use of this procedure is limited to conditions that can be seen externally.
- B. Use of learning disability assessment to identify possible learning disabilities.
- C. There must be an educational limitation that precludes the student from fully participating in general education without specialized services.

6. Student rights and responsibilities

- A. See the DSPS Student Handbook and the Academic Accommodations and Education Plan.

7. Student education contract or plan that is developed by a designated person in consultation with the student

- A. Upon initial entry into the program and for each academic year while participating in DSPS, the student, DSPS Counselor and Learning Specialist complete an Academic Accommodations and Education Plan.
- B. The Academic Accommodations and Education Plan.
 - i. Outlines specific short term objectives, long term goals and processes to complete those goals, recommended support classes, recommendations to on campus and off campus departments, and student's measured progress.
 - ii. Includes lists of eligible and requested accommodations specific to the student's disability and educational limitations.
 - iii. Contains a signed copy of the student rights and responsibilities.

8. Academic accommodations

- A. Taft College students initiate participation in the DSPS program by signing a Request for Services form, followed by the completion of an intake packet and appointment with the Learning Specialist.
- B. Academic accommodations are determined by the DSPS professionals in collaboration with the student and are based on the student' specific disability and educational limitations.

- C. It is the responsibility of the student to request accommodations, while the DSPS staff provides support as necessary.

9. Provisions for course substitution and waivers

- A. Taft College DSPS students initiate requests for course substitutions and waivers independently.
- B. Requests for academic adjustments are reviewed in collaboration by the requested student and DSPS professionals with input from and discussion with discipline-specific teaching faculty.

10. Staffing

- A. Taft College DSPS staffing is designed to meet the varying needs of the growing and diverse student population; from alternate media productions to counseling, from training students in the use of adaptive computer technologies to entering and reporting MIS data, the staff is responsive to student needs and state and federal mandates for service design and delivery.
- B. Taft College DSPS professional staff meet the minimum requirements set forth in Title 5 regulations.

11. Advisory committee

- A. The Abilities Partnership Team (APT) is comprised of stakeholders from within the college community, college district service area and local community members.
- B. AFT advisory committee meets 6-8 times per year to guide in creating a safe and supportive environment for all Taft College students having disabilities; thereby improving the quality of life for all individuals with disabilities who live in the West Kern Community College district.