

# Rockingham Community College

## Accessibility Services FAQ

### General Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

#### 1. Who are students that register with Accessibility Services?

- Accessibility Services serves students with appropriately documented disabilities that significantly affect major life functions including learning. Students registered with our office have disabilities including, but not limited to: physical, visual, hearing, psychiatric, learning disabilities, ADD/ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, other health disabilities and traumatic brain injury.

#### 2. Do I have to be registered with Accessibility Services in order to be recognized on campus as a student with a disability and to have access to reasonable accommodations or services at RCC?

- Yes. Colleges fall under different laws than high schools. There are differences in areas including disclosure of disability, documentation, registration process, accommodations and services available, and student responsibilities in requesting and using accommodations.

#### 3. I have heard that I can sign a waiver allowing you to talk with my parents. I've also heard that the waiver will allow my parents to handle college matters for me. Is this true?

- A college student at RCC can sign a FERPA waiver giving permission to share information with your parents. Accessibility Services requires that the student handle any matters related to this office, including registration and accommodations. We do not work with the parent in place of the student.

#### 4. Will my IEP and 504 Plan from high school transfer to ACC?

- No, neither document transfers. You can provide your IEP or 504 Plan as secondary documentation in determination of accommodations.

#### 5. How long is the registration process?

- You should allow one week once all the documentation has been received by the Accessibility Services Office. Please note, certain accommodations or services (ex: sign language interpreters) take longer to implement so students are encouraged to start the registration prior to the beginning of the semester.

**6. What types of Accessibility Services are offered? What services do I qualify for?**

- Services are determined on an individualized case by case base. This process involves a review of documentation and an interactive meeting with the student.

**7. How do I register with Accessibility Services?**

- For detailed information, please review the RCC website or Etrieve Central for directions and forms.

**8. What does the term “documentation” mean? Does documentation mean that you need my medical records?**

- Generally, “documentation” means a letter from a doctor, or a psycho-educational evaluation from a psychologist, depending upon your disability. A typed letter on letterhead or psycho-educational evaluation allows the medical professional to explain the disability and significant effects on major life functions. More information on disability documentation guidelines is located on the Accessibility Services webpage or in Etrieve Central.

**9. Once I am registered with Accessibility Services, are my instructors automatically notified of my disability and need for accommodations?**

- No. We cannot provide information about your disability to anyone on campus without written consent from you. Each semester, you must notify Accessibility Services of the accommodations you will need. In most cases, instructors are only informed of the accommodations you will need in their class and not the nature of the disability.

**10. In high school, my teacher handled arrangements for extended test time. Will it work the same way at RCC?**

- No. In college, you have an active role in obtaining accommodations.

**11. What if I don’t need accommodations in all my classes? Can I just use accommodations for certain classes?**

- Yes. The structure of classes can be different and you may not need accommodations in all of your classes. You only need to request accommodations for the classes you need them in.

**12. I am not sure if I will need accommodations. Should I still register with Accessibility Services?**

- To register with the Accessibility Services Office is the student's decision. Students may find it beneficial to register as soon as possible and then confirm required accommodations each semester as needed. Again, the information you provide will remain confidential.

**13. What if I feel uncomfortable talking to my instructors about my accommodations?**

- Advocating for yourself is an important skill to learn. However, if you have little experience doing this, please let us know so we can discuss with you how to best talk with your instructor. Most instructors are aware of the procedures and are genuinely interested in your success.

**14. Can an instructor deny my accommodation?**

- If an instructor feels that your accommodation modifies the essential function or significantly alters the course or exam, the instructor must notify the Accessibility Services Office immediately. The Accessibility Services Counselor will communicate with student and instructor to address the situation.

**15. Can I receive a failing grade in a college class in which I am receiving accommodations?**

- Yes. Accommodations ensure "access" not "success".

**16. Does RCC provide testing to identify a learning disability or update documentation?**

- No. We do not offer testing services. The student is responsible for the cost of the evaluation. The evaluation can be shared with the Accessibility Services Office if there is a potential need for accommodations or services.

8/24/2021