



Accessibility Services Frequently Asked Questions

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 the Accessibility Services 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 to have access to reasonable accommodations or services at Rockingham Community College (RCC)?

Yes. Colleges fall under different laws than high schools. There are differences in areas including disclosure of disability, documentation, registration processes, 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 or 504 Plan from high school transfer to RCC?

No, neither document transfers. You can provide your IEP or 504 Plan as supporting documentation in determining accommodations.

5. How long is the process to receive accommodations?

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 application process for accommodations 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 basis. 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 under Counseling Services >Accessibility Services. Information can also be found on Etrieve Central along with directions and forms.

8. What does the term “documentation” mean?

Generally, documentation refers to information necessary to be found eligible for accommodations. Depending upon your disability, we may require a medical verification from your physician.

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 will meet with the Accessibility Counselor to determine the accommodations you will need. In most cases, instructors are only informed of the accommodations you will need in their class, not the nature of the disability.

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

No. In college, you have an active role in obtaining the 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 in which you will need them.

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

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

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

Advocating for yourself is an important skill to learn. However, Accessibility Services is here to support you and can act as a liaison between you and your instructor. 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 significantly modifies or alters the course, they will notify Accessibility Services. The Accessibility Counselor will meet with the 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 to update documentation?

No. We do not offer testing services. The student is responsible for the cost of the evaluation.