

VCU DSS

Virginia Commonwealth University

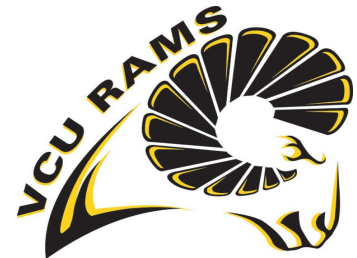
Disability Support Services

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Welcome to the second issue of the Disability Support Services Newsletter, a newsletter for students with disabilities at VCU. We are excited about our new program endeavors. Some are scheduled to begin in the spring and others need your immediate input to create a catchy name. A gift card will be awarded for the selected name. See the Career Corner below for additional information about the "Create a Name Contest".

If you have questions or topics for future issues, or you would like to share your perspective of being a college student with a disability, please email Dr. Sandra Fritton at frittonsc@vcu.edu.

October 2011



Differences between High School and College: Some Things You Should Know

Now that you are in College, services for you as a student with a disability, fall under the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Both of these laws are based on civil rights and guarantee equal access. The requirements placed on students under these two laws are substantially different than those found under the IDEA, the law that governs students with disabilities in K-12 education. Some of these differences and how they affect you, as a college student with a disability, are highlighted below.

In college:

1. Students are required to provide documentation of disability and to have knowledge of their educational strengths and limitations. This assists college personnel in determining appropriate accommodations and professors in designing their methods of instruction to better meet your needs.
2. The goal of college accommodations is equal access. Disability Support Services professionals, in conjunction with you as the student, will determine what are appropriate accommodations for you in the college setting. It's up to you to use your accommodations to promote your success.
3. After accommodations have been approved, you must request new accommodation letters each semester and give them to your course instructors. Although not required, it is recommended that you schedule an appointment with your instructors to discuss your accommodations and your strengths and weaknesses in the classroom. It is always your choice how much to divulge in each circumstance.
4. You are responsible for scheduling testing times with the DSS office, if this is one of your accommodations. You are also required to remind course instructors to make sure that your test is delivered to the DSS office prior to your scheduled testing time.

Confidentiality, FERPA, Parental Rights

Many students want to be sure that written records will be confidential and available only to those with a legitimate reason for accessing them. Student records are protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). FERPA protects a student's record from being shared (without the student's permission) with "curious" faculty, administrators, other students, the press, or anyone without a legitimate reason for seeing the record.







Information regarding a student's disability is considered confidential and shall be shared with others within the institution only on a need-to-know basis. In other words, disability-related information is accessible only to those for whom it impacts their functioning or involvement with the student.

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STUDY TIPS *cntd...*

- Record Notes
 - Takes notes only on the right-hand pages.
 - Use short sentences and skip lines between major ideas.
- Record Triggers
 - The trigger column is used to record words, phrases, or visual images that will trigger the corresponding main idea in the notes section.
 - Fill in this section immediately or shortly after class.
- Record REAP Words
 - The REAP column should also be filled in immediately or shortly after class.
 - In the REAP column, the student writes words or phrases that...
 - Relate the material to his/her own life
 - Extend the material outward into the outside world
 - Actualize the material; note how information might work in the world
 - Profit from the ideas - consider how the student and society might profit from the ideas

An example of the REAP strategy of notetaking is provided below.

TRIGGERS	REAP	Marcus Black Astronomy	1/7/95 p. 1
	geology class ○	○ BIG BANG THEORY - creation of universe from initial speck of matter, 10-15 billion yrs ago	
	sound of train whistle ○	○ DOPPLER EFFECT - shift in wave freq due to mvmt of objects	
	Milky Way - our galaxy ○	○ GALAXY - lg collection of stars, dust & gas w/ some structure: elliptical  spiral  barred spiral 	

* Source: Muskingum University Learning Strategies Database <http://www.muskingum.edu/~cal/database/>



TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Disability Support Services has technology to increase accessibility for students with disabilities in college. Some of this technology is listed below. Items marked with an * are available for check out for the semester on a first come, first served basis.

JAWS works with your PC to provide access to today's software applications and the Internet. Information from the screen is read aloud, providing access to many kinds of applications.

***Zoom Text Magnifier/Reader** enlarges and reads everything on your computer screen, including documents, web pages, and email. This program helps make your computer easier to see, hear, and use.

***Read & Write Gold** combines a screen reader, dictionary, thesaurus, and various other forms of literacy support in a single program. This program helps make reading and writing easier.

***Dragon Naturally Speaking** allows you to create documents and surf the web with your voice. Type papers, send emails, and even create Facebook posts much faster with this software.

***Intel Reader** is a mobile/handheld screen reader. You can take a picture of any print material and the Intel Reader will convert it to speech.

Scanning & Reading Appliance (SARA) is a stand-alone device that scans and reads any print material. SARA can also read books in DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) format.



SAFETY TIP



As the new semester kicks into gear, the University becomes engaged in multiple activities, events, and is simply busier than the summer months. With this increased activity comes the greater responsibility to be aware of those who may seek to engage in criminal activity as well as the increased pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Here are a few tips for you to keep in mind:

Stay alert and tuned into your surroundings, whether on the street, in an office building, while driving or waiting for bus. If you listen to music keep one of your ear buds out so you can have at least one ear listening. Look both ways before you cross the street and utilize the cross walks at busy intersections. Don't text and walk especially if you are crossing a busy street and are by yourself. Stay alert and not distracted. If you insist on travelling alone consider utilizing the Escorts (828-WALK) or at the least, walk with 3 or more people, especially at night.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scheduling Tests/Exams in the DSS Office: Please be sure that you follow DSS guidelines for scheduling tests/exams that will be taken in the DSS office. Tests/exams need to be scheduled seven days in advance. We have a limited amount of space for testing so schedule early to get the time slot that you want. It is also a good idea to remind your professor to have your test delivered to our office ahead of your scheduled testing time. Call 828-2253 to schedule a testing time.

Canceling testing/interpreting services due to illness/personal reasons: If you find that you must cancel a scheduled test or interpreting services, please give DSS staff as much notice as possible. This will allow us to open your testing slot for another student or may prevent the college paying for interpreting services that are not necessary.

Early Registration is available for all DSS students. Early registration for the Spring 2012 semester begins Monday October 31, 2011. You can register by using the e-services online system or you can visit the records and registration office in Harris Hall. Before you register, be sure to schedule an appointment with your academic advisor.

Scholarship information and other opportunities:

disABLEDperson, Inc. is announcing its Fall 2011 National Scholarship Competition for College Students with Disabilities. The competition started August 15, 2011 and runs through October 15, 2011. Details of the competition can be found at [disABLEDperson.com /pages/108](http://disABLEDperson.com/pages/108) or go to disABLEDperson.com and click the link on the top that says fall 2011 National Scholarship Competition for College Students with Disabilities.

Proyecto Visión has extensive lists of scholarships and internships for students with disabilities. The information includes award amounts, application deadlines, and links to the application forms.

The scholarship list is located at <http://www.proyectovision.net/english/opportunities/scholarships.html>

The internship list is located at: <http://www.proyectovision.net/english/opportunities/internships.html>

You can sign up for the newsletter at: <http://eepurl.com/f1ls>

VCU Disability Awareness Week: October 24 – October 28

VCU Disability Awareness week has a host of activities aimed at increasing awareness of the ability and inclusion as well as some challenges that individuals with disabilities may face. The schedule for Disability Awareness Week activities follows.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event/Presenter</u>	<u>Start/End Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Monday</u> <u>10/24</u>	<u>*Assistive technology-VCU TTAC</u> VCU Training and Technical Assistance Center will have a resource table in the University Commons from 3:30 to 5 pm. They will highlight assistive technology to enhance learning.	<u>3:30/5:30p.m.</u>	<u>Commons table 1</u>
<u>Tuesday</u> <u>10/25</u>	<u>*Accessible Soccer Demonstration</u> Sportable (Richmond Adaptive Sports & Recreation) a not for profit organization focused on providing recreation and sports opportunities for individuals with physical disabilities in the Richmond area will host an accessible soccer demonstration.	<u>3:15/4:15p.m.</u>	<u>Commons Plaza</u>
<u>Wednesday</u> <u>10/26</u>	<u>*Panel Discussion</u> A panel comprised of students and local area members of the disability community will examine the disability experience. This event is open to all and pizza will be provided for those in attendance.	<u>12 noon/ 1:30p.m.</u>	<u>USC Forum Room</u>
<u>Thursday</u> <u>10/27</u>	<u>*Abuse and Neglect and Individuals with Disabilities</u> The Partnership for People with Disabilities interim director, Donna Gilles, will present this topic for discussion. <u>* Facilitating an Inclusive Culture</u> Dr. Amy Armstrong from VCU Rehabilitation Counseling will present about promoting an inclusive culture for all individuals.	<u>9:00/10:00a.m.</u> <u>11:00/12 noon</u>	<u>USC Forum Room</u> <u>USC Forum Room</u>
<u>Friday</u> <u>10/28</u>	<u>*Resource Table</u> <u>*Rain date: Accessible Soccer Demonstration</u>	<u>11:00am/1:00pm</u> <u>4:15/5:15</u>	<u>Commons table 3</u> <u>Commons Plaza</u>