

ABILITY SERVICES AT HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE-- NORTHWEST COLLEGE

Presented by:
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(Alief Hayes, Alief Bissonnet, Spring Branch, and Katy
campuses)

The Americans with Disability Act (ADA)

- Students with disabilities are covered under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, which also prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities, and under the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- HCC's obligations differ from what students had in high school.
- “Reasonable accommodations” in college is to accommodate functional limitations of the student while maintaining the integrity of college courses and programs.
- Colleges provide reasonable accommodations in accordance with federal law, and not modifications to courses.

Welcome to HCC and Ability Services!

First Steps --

1. Apply for Admissions at <https://www.hccs.edu/>
2. Submit high school transcript to HCC
3. Provide proof of Meningitis Immunization or complete the exemption
4. Apply for Financial Aid (optional)
5. Complete Checklist items

<https://www.hccs.edu/applying-and-paying/first-time-in-college-student/>

HCC Process for ADA Students

- Make appointment with ADA Counselor;
- Complete & submit ADA intake information;
- Intake appointment includes discussing HCC processes, procedures, student's disability and needs as well as student's academic plan;
- Register for classes;
- ADA Counselor reviews all documents and creates Letter of Accommodations (LOA);
- Sign LOA and send to current instructors & testing center;
- No retroactive services
- Services are determined & granted each term, college-specific
- Student's choice to receive services

Disabilities defined

- Disabilities can be *temporary* or *permanent*.
- Disabilities can *improve* or *worsen* over time.
- Disabilities vary in how they *impact* individuals.
- Disabilities are not synonymous with *success* or *failure* in school and/or life.
- ADA Students must self-identify and register with the HCC ADA office at the college in which they will enroll.

Accommodations for TSI

- For TSI Testing Accommodations, see an Ability Services Counselor at HCC –
Schedule an appointment for intake and bring appropriate medical documentation.
- Obtain a testing form from Advising, Triage, or Ability Services Counselor

ADA Student Rights

- To equal access to courses, programs, services, jobs, activities, and facilities available through HCC;
- To reasonable and appropriate accommodations and services as determined on an individual basis;
- To information in accessible formats;
- To appropriate confidentiality of all info pertaining to their disability.

Instructor Rights

- To confirm a student's request for accommodations and to ask for clarification about a specific accommodation with Ability Services;
- To enforce the HCC student code of conduct in their class with ALL students;
- To ensure ALL students meet essential program/course requirements as students are not entitled to accommodations that eliminate, modify, or fundamentally alter course requirements;
- Instructors do not have a right to refuse to provide an accommodation;
- Instructors do not have a right to review a student's documentation including diagnostic data.

Types of Accommodations for Access*

- Extended time for testing (use of testing center instead of classroom)
- Audio record class lectures
- Note-taking assistance
- Alternative assignment or textbook
- Assistive technology e.g., JAWS, Zoomtext, Dragon
- Reader for exams

*Accommodations are not a guarantee for college success.

Accommodations: Other Assistive Technologies



Keyguard: overlays keyboard



CCTV video magnifier for low vision



Onscreen keyboard: low vision, mobility, cognitive... many uses



Hearing Assist dog



Recording device



ASL video phone



Sight Guide Dog



Braille notetaker: Blind, low vision



Computer software



Different size/style chair: mobility, other uses



Livescribe pen: mobility, cognitive, many uses

HCC Ability Services Contacts

Central College

713.718.6164

Coleman College

713-718-7376

Northeast College

713-718-8322

Southeast College

713-718-7144

Southwest College

713-718-7910

713-718-6857

Northwest College

713-718-5422

713-718-5408

Adaptive Equipment/Assistive Technology

713-718-6629

713-718-5604

Interpreting and CART services

713-718-6333

HCC Counselor or Advisor -- Who Should I See?

- Counselors meet with student with personal problems.
 - Counselors see students on academic probation or academic suspension.
 - Counselors see students by appointment.
 - ADA Counselors provide accommodations & educational counseling.
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- Advisors answer questions about grades, degree plans, graduation, etc.....
 - Can schedule appointment to speak with your assigned Advisor.

Resources

Ability Services at HCC: <https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/disability-services/>

U.S. Department of Education:
<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html>

ADA Law: <https://www.ada.gov/cguide.htm> and
<https://www.ada.gov/>