

**Student Services****AP 5140 DISABLED STUDENTS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES****References:**

Title 5 Sections 56000 et seq.

Each College's Disabled Students Programs and Services (also known as the Disability Instructional Support Center at Mission College and the Disability and Educational Support Program at West Valley College) are the primary providers of support programs and services that facilitate equal educational opportunities for students with verified disabilities who can profit from instruction as required by Federal and State laws. The services to be provided include, but are not limited to reasonable academic accommodations, accessible facilities and equipment, specialized instructional programs, and academic, personal and vocational counseling. Academic accommodations include, but are not limited to, test taking and note-taking accommodations, alternate media, sign language interpreters and real time captioning. Each College's DSPS shall develop a Program Plan as described in Title 5 Regulations for DSPS, California Code of Regulations, which is submitted to the Chancellor's office upon request. In addition, each College's DSPS shall establish an advisory committee to meet at least once a year to give guidance and direction related to the needs of the local community.

A student with a disability is a person enrolled at a community college who has a verified disability which limits one or more major life activities and which imposes an educational limitation. Qualifying disabilities include, but are not limited to, learning disabilities, acquired brain impairment, psychological disability, and visual and hearing impairments.

Verification of the disability is made by:

1. Observation by DSPS professional staff, with review by the DSPS coordinator, through personal observation;
2. Assessment by an appropriate DSPS staff member; and
3. Review by DSPS professional staff of documentation provided by an appropriate agency or certified professional by DSPS professional staff, with review by the DSPS coordinator.

DSPS counselors and instructors must meet minimum qualifications as set forth in Title 5 Regulations for DSPS, California Code of Regulations. In addition, each College shall

designate a DSPS coordinator who meets the minimum qualifications of a DSPS counselor or instructor and an additional minimum qualification as set forth Title 5 Regulations for DSPS, California Code of Regulations.

Participation in each College's Disabled Students Programs and Services by students with disabilities is completely voluntary and does not preclude participation in any other course, program or activity. All records maintained by DSPS personnel pertaining to students with disabilities are protected from disclosure and subject to all other relevant statutes and regulations for handling of student records. Students receiving support services or instruction from DSPS must comply with the student code of conduct adopted by each College and be responsible in their use of DSPS services as described in each College's DSPS Student Handbook. In addition, students shall make measureable progress toward the goals established in the student's Student Educational Contract as set forth in Title 5 Regulations for DSPS, California Code of Regulations.

Also see AP 6365 titled Accessibility of Information Technology

The District is committed to providing equal access to all members of the District community and to supporting the open access policy of the California Community College system by providing barrier-free access to all students, including access to electronic and information technology in accordance with State and Federal mandates (Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1998, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended in 2008 and California Senate Bill 105). The District is committed to expanding the boundaries of access beyond the physical setting for students with disabilities recognizing that students are entitled to equal access to electronic information and technology.

A disability may preclude a student from demonstrating required proficiencies or from completing course requirements necessary for an AA or AS degree in the same manner as non-disabled students. There may be the need to accommodate students with documented disabilities to the greatest extent possible without compromising the student's course of study, the student's confidentiality and dignity, and the integrity of the student's degree.

All graduates shall master the competencies required by The California Code of Regulations, Title 5 and to complete the courses required for graduation. Most disabilities that preclude a student from completing a course can be overcome by altering the method of course delivery and providing a combination of appropriate accommodations. Therefore, for most students with documented disabilities, the first level of accommodation will involve extra help: disability-related tutorial assistance, auxiliary aids, test accommodations, and/or special courses are examples of the kinds of assistance the District may extend to students. For some students with a disability, such accommodations and alterations of course delivery will not be enough to enable completion of the course. For these students, a course substitution will be individually considered under the conditions described in local procedures. Only in the most

extreme cases will a course waiver be considered. All policies and procedures that apply to approval of course substitutions or waivers also apply to proficiency requirements.

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**Date Approved: January 18, 2012**  
*(Replaces current WVMCCD Policies 5.11.1,  
5.11.2, 5.11.3, and 5.11.4*