



Disability Support Services

1. Why does MSUB have an office to work with students who have disabilities?

It's the right thing to do. Each student with a disability has paid tuition and works toward the same degree expectations as any other student. Sometimes adjustments need to be made to ensure equal access.

It's the legal thing to do. The law (Section 504 of the Rehab Act of 1973 and the American's with Disabilities Act of 1990) specify that "no qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any such entity." [SEC. 202. Discrimination, 42 USC 12132]. They also prohibit discrimination in public entities that receive federal funds against qualified people with disabilities in any program, service, or activity they offer.

2. Who decides if a person has a disability?

The student, the DSS Director or Coordinator, and information from the diagnostician help to determine if the student has a disability that will result in difficulty accessing facilities and/or academic programs. Disabilities include Traumatic Brain Injuries, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Blind and Low Vision, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Attention Deficit Disorder, learning disabilities, mental illness, mobility, and other disabilities that don't fit into one of the categories.

3. What does DSS do?

The staff works with Facility Services for issues related to physical access and faculty for issues related to course content. Common adjustments are accessible technology, such as text-to-speech and speech-to-text programs, textbooks and tests in audio format, Smart pens and peer notetakers, large print copies or copies on colored paper, sign language interpreting, captioned videos and online lectures, and extra time and access to accessible technology for taking tests. There are four testing rooms in the DSS office In the College of Education where students can take tests utilizing the technology in a reduced-distraction environment. The same accommodations are available at City College where the testing center is utilized instead of DSS testing rooms.

4. What doesn't DSS do?

DSS does not offer tutoring, mental health counseling, financial assistance, personal care attendants, or mobility equipment. The staff works with Facility Services to make sure the routes to classrooms are accessible, but DSS doesn't assist students to get around campus.

5. How can you spread the word that DSS exists?

Classroom announcements and syllabi statements, inclusion of DSS information in handbooks, and information about DSS in student tours and orientations are some of the ways that students are made aware of the DSS office. DSS cannot contact students (that is the law again), but if you are working with a student who mentions a disability-related concern, you can refer him/her to DSS.

6. What is the contact information for DSS?

College of Education, Room 135, 657-2283

Director: 657-2161

Sign Language Interpreters: 657-2159

City College, Room A008, 247-3029



The DSS office on both campuses has a wheelchair that is available for temporary use by offices on campus and a video phone for public use.