When—And How—To Request a Sign Language Interpreter

Sign language interpreters are becoming more common on campus as our population of hearing impaired and deaf students grows. The Office of Accommodative Services is responsible for coordinating and authorizing payment for course-related activities such as lecture, lab, and mandatory class activities like group projects and internship hours.

However, these students may also require sign language interpreters for tutoring services, registration/advisement, campus events, student activities, and other college-related functions. In these cases, students should communicate their needs to their instructors or the director of the departments offering the programs, and those departments or offices need to schedule and pay for the service.

Dutchess Community College currently contracts with Mid-Hudson Interpreter Service to provide interpreter services. They can be reached at 453-3913, ext 102 or at MHIS@taconicresources.org. They will need information such as location, time, length of event and the name of the student. Please feel free to contact our office if you have questions about this process.

Looking for Good Note-takers

Accommodative Services helps secure note-takers for students approved for this accommodation. We search class rosters and transcripts to identify students in good academic standing with a GPA of at least 3.0. We reach out to potential note-takers via email, explain the reason for our outreach and ask for their assistance in providing a copy or scan of their notes. A stipend (DCC Bookstore gift card and thank you letter/certificate) is available in exchange for this service.

The process is anonymous—neither the student nor the note-taker identities are shared with each other unless we receive consent from both parties. During the process, we may ask faculty for recommendations, but it is often difficult for teachers to identify good note-takers during the first weeks of classes while they are still getting to know their students. We also encourage students to record their lectures until a note-taker is secured.

We are always looking for ways to encourage students to participate in this program, and we welcome your input and suggestions to identify and reward our note-taking students.

What We Offer for Students

One-On-One Academic Support including, but not limited to, time management and organization, study skills, note taking, test taking, adaptive tech training, and academic advisement.

Workshops/Group Work based on student need: study groups can be customized for a particular subject or desired training.

Technology like CCTV, screen readers and magnifiers, speech recognition software, alternate text format, and self-editing software.

What We Offer for Faculty

Instructional Support: strategies are offered for effective disability-related teaching methods. In some cases, supplemental instruction of content material may be provided.

Early Alert/Electronic Progress Reports which allow faculty to provide early intervention warnings with specific feedback and suggestions that our professional tutors will use when they work one-on-one with students academically at-risk.
Meet Hannah Kopet—Student Aide and Peer Tutor

Welcome Hannah Kopet, a 2012 Carmel High School graduate, to our office. Hannah utilizes Accommodative Services to help manage school with Type 1 diabetes. As a member of our Student Employment Circle, she works as a student aide and peer tutor. Hannah, an avid athlete studying both Liberal Arts Science and Computer Information Systems classes, was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes when she was three years old. She had been accepted to several four-year school, but her diabetes made it important to start college closer to home.

A person with type 1 diabetes doesn’t make insulin, a hormone that moves sugar out of the blood and into the cells. If it is not controlled high blood sugars do damage to many body systems. Insulin injections help manage the condition, but sometimes make blood sugars drop too low too fast. Low blood sugar causes neurological symptoms like confusion. Hannah’s accommodations are related to these low blood sugars.

“I need to be able to eat in class, or do a blood sugar in class,” said Hannah. “If I’m having severe lows, I might not be in class to hear a teacher give a lesson, or might have to leave class to fix a blood sugar, or can’t comprehend a lecture because of it.” Working with Accommodative Services allows her more flexibility in testing or completing assignments if, for instance, she has just spent a night trying to stabilize her blood sugar.

Hannah was a peer tutor in high school, and at DCC her teaching skills are helping students taking math classes like algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and pre-calculus. She also tutors for earth science, biology, chemistry, and physics classes. “I’m able to communicate with other students,” she said. “I understand what they’re going through if they’re frustrated. If they don’t understand, I’m able to break it down, make it simple—explain it another way.”

Accommodative Services Expands Hours with Expanded Tutoring

Fall 2012 hours are expanded because our tutors are coming early and staying late—more hours to help you finish assignments and prepare for tests in a wide variety of subjects.

Welcome back Frances Welsh, who works with students from 5-8 p.m. on Mondays. Frances helps in many subjects and is especially good in helping students with organizational skills and planning. She is our resident expert on Read and Write Gold!

Need help with a paper? Talk to Meghan Keyser, our new professional tutor for English and Writing. After graduating from Siena College in 2007, Meghan joined Americorps, living and teaching in San Francisco, California and Baltimore, Maryland. During this time she discovered her love of teaching and decided to spend her life dedicated to teaching, tutoring, and bettering society one student at a time. She is a graduate of the SUNY New Paltz graduate program where she travelled to Europe and presented research papers on authors such as Ernest Hemingway and Ezra Pound. Meghan holds a New York State Teaching License and has a Master’s Degree in English and Education. She is an adjunct professor at SUNY Sullivan County Community College and Dutchess Community College. When she is not tutoring in the Accommodative Services Office and teaching her college courses, she works as a substitute teacher in the Catskill School District.

Mary Koniz Arnold tutors multiple subjects, especially biology classes for ESW and Nursing programs, and for WFE. She comes in early (8 a.m.) and stays late (6 p.m.) on Tuesdays, and even stays until 6 p.m. on Fridays.

Dawn Buchal tutors basic math skills Mondays through Thursdays from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Students should see Dawn for help with CSM 093 and 094, and MAT 091,092, 100, 109, and 110.

Tutoring appointments are generally made in half-hour slots. To make an appointment, visit our office, SSB Room 303, or call 845-790-3631.