Take the Stress Out of Tests!

Test taking is a time of high anxiety for many students. At DCC, the offices of Residential Life, Counseling, and Accommodative Services are teaming up to provide some much needed stress relief during arguably the most stressful time of the semester: Finals.

At Accommodative Services, we will be stocked with a variety of food to sustain you during your tests. We will also be one of several offices on campus to receive a visit from Dutchess (above) and other therapy dogs. “Therapy dogs provide emotional support to individuals in hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and various community facilities,” said Dr. Mark Condon, a DCC biology teacher and therapy dog trainer. Studies have demonstrated that therapy dog visits can lower blood pressure and stress hormone levels in hospital patients and can help students improve reading skills and achieve other academic goals.

Ordering Alternative Version Books Online Saves Time and Money

By Linda Bertolozzi, Access & Equity Coordinator

Good news to our students who need or prefer an alternative version of their textbook—digital versions that can be accessed on different devices and/or read out loud through screen reader programs.

Rentals and electronic versions of books are available for up to 60 percent off the price of print textbooks. A company called CourseSmart offers eTextbooks, eResources and apps to help you read from your computer or mobile device; read offline on select browsers and devices when the internet isn’t available; and print the pages you need.

This differs from our current process, where we order alternative versions for you. Currently students need to buy the textbook first and provide a receipt to us before we can place the order. We are happy to continue doing this, but believe it will be faster and more cost effective for students to place their own orders. For more information visit www.coursesmart.com.

Also, remember that even if you are ordering books online, it is always wise to check with the DCC bookstore, which often bundles packages of books and other course materials to make them more complete and cost effective.

Contact Us:

Paula Perez: Coordinator, 845-431-8058
Linda Bertolozzi: Access & Equity Counselor, 845-431-8056
NEW Main Number: 845-790-3631

Main Office: SSB 303
Monday, 8:30 am-8 pm
Tuesday, 8 am to 6 pm
Wednesday, 8:30 am to 5 pm
Thursday, 8:30 am to 6 pm
Friday, 8:30 to 6 pm.

Adaptive Technology Lab, SSB 305
Monday through Friday, 9 am-5 pm

Deborah Herring: Administrative Assistant, 845-790-3631
Monday through Friday, 9 am-5 pm

Mary Koniz Arnold: Academic Tutor
Tuesday 8 am-noon & 2-6 pm, Friday 2-6 pm

Dawn Buchal, Math Tutor
Monday through Thursday 1-4 pm

Frances Welsh, Academic Tutor
Monday 5-8 pm

Important Reminders

Inclement Weather:

If classes are canceled because of the weather, like they were for Superstorm Sandy, Accommodative Services’ testing lab is closed and tutoring appointments and are suspended. Student aides should not report. This office and College administrative offices will, however, remain open and staffed on a limited basis unless the College closes for a Dutchess County State of Emergency.

If your exam is canceled due to inclement weather, you must make a new appointment with our office to take it. Please note we are not always able to accommodate walk-ins due to space limitations.

Wednesday, Nov. 21
College closes at 5:15 PM
NO EVENING CREDIT CLASSES

Thursday, Nov. 22-Sunday, Nov. 25
Thanksgiving Recess College closed

Friday, Dec. 7
Last date to withdraw from ALL courses with a “W”

Friday, Dec. 14
Last day of regularly scheduled DAY credit classes

Monday, Dec. 10–Wednesday, Dec. 19
Day Evaluation and Exam period

Monday, Dec. 17 – Wednesday, Dec. 19
Day block final exam period
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 schools, 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.