College for Students with Disabilities:

It's Different from High School!

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  In high school, students' districts identify them as eligible for services. In college, students are responsible for identifying their special needs to college personnel.

- In high school, the district must update evaluations. In college, students are responsible for having their documentation updated.

- In high school, special needs students' program requirements may have been very different from that of mainstream classes. In college, no fundamental alteration of the college requirements is permitted.

- The college is required by law to provide reasonable accommodations to the academic program, but students are responsible for presenting the school with documentation; accommodations can only be based on the documentation provided.
Policy Statement

Passaic County Community College is committed to assisting students with special needs - students who are learning disabled or who have a physical, emotional or sensory challenge.

The goal of the Office of Disabilities Services is to promote **Student Self-Advocacy**. This is the ability of a student to clearly communicate information about his or her physical, sensory, emotional or learning challenge to college personnel in order to obtain accessibility to programs and services at PCCC. In order for students to advocate for themselves, they must understand their disability and the ways in which it impacts college performance. They must have a clear set of goals - for college and beyond! Above all, students with disabilities must be motivated to do whatever is necessary to succeed in the college world.

After students have presented documentation of their disability to the Office of Disabilities Services, they are guided toward greater self-advocacy through several available services.

Documentation Requirements

Students who have been accepted to PCCC and wish to request academic adjustments or accommodations should contact the Office of Disabilities Services at 973-684-6395. These students must present recent documentation (dated within three years) of their disability before their requests will be addressed by the college.

The following is a list of documents which must be presented for the corresponding disability:

*For a physical or sensory disability.*
Physician’s diagnosis & report.

*For a learning disability.*
Educational Evaluation and Psychological Evaluation, specifying diagnosis, by a licensed psychologist and learning consultant. Test scores must be included.

*For a psychiatric/psychological disability.*
Report containing diagnosis from a licensed psychiatrist, psychologist or social worker.

An IEP (Individual Educational Plan) is sufficient for documentation if it contains the above information specific to the disability.

Services Available

The following services are available if the student’s request for accommodating his/her disability is deemed by the Office of Disabilities Services to be “reasonable and appropriate”:

- Academic Advisement/Registration
- Tutoring
- Alternative testing
- Academic adjustments
- Accommodations to physical setting
- Referral to community resources and regional centers

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After meeting eligibility requirements it is the student’s responsibility to facilitate his/her accommodations.