

VI. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Wabash College Policy Relating to Documentation and Accommodation

Wabash College responds to the needs of students with disabilities as outlined in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (PL 93-616) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (PL 101-336). The College will provide persons with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and services as afforded to other individuals. This is done in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of the individual with a disability.

Students with a disability are encouraged to inform the Disability Service Coordinator (Center Hall 112A) of their disability. However, to respect the student's right to confidentiality, the student's instructor(s) and relevant College staff will be notified of the student's disability only after he has given written permission for this information to be shared.

Documentation of the disability must be on file with the Disability Services Office (Center Hall 112A) before an accommodation will be recommended.

- An individual with a physical disability will provide documentation from a medical professional such as a physician, physical therapist, occupational therapist, ophthalmologist, optometrist, or audiologist.
- An individual with a condition affecting emotional or psychological functioning will provide documentation from an appropriately licensed psychologist or psychiatrist.
- An individual with a learning disability will provide documentation from a licensed psychologist, physician, or other specialist. The documentation will include a psycho-educational evaluation that has been administered within the last three years. Documentation must clearly state that a learning disability exists. As presently used in the literature, a "learning difference" or a "learning problem" does not constitute a learning disability.

Once appropriate documentation is received, necessary academic accommodation will be determined.

- The student has the responsibility of deciding whether he will request accommodation. If he chooses accommodation, then the instructor(s) for the course(s) for which accommodation is requested will be notified. The student is encouraged to communicate with his instructor(s) or relevant staff about his disability as early in the semester as possible.
- Each request for accommodation must be assessed individually, and the person with a disability must be an active participant in the assessment process.
- In the assessment process, any available diagnostic information, the student's past experiences, and recommendations from the student's instructors will be considered.

- Appropriate accommodations may include but are not limited to the following: relocating class to an accessible room; removing structural barriers; providing interpreters and note takers; using assistive technology such as closed captioning and text-to-voice computers; providing text in large print; allowing lectures to be taped; extending testing time; using a different testing format; reducing course load and providing alternative testing sites.
- If the requested accommodation is a course substitution/waiver for a requirement, the request will be forwarded to the Curriculum Appeals Committee.
- It is not appropriate for the instructor(s) to determine that no accommodation is needed without consultation with the Disability Services Coordinator.

In the event that a student with a documented disability is not satisfied with a recommended accommodation, he is encouraged to work with the Disability Service Coordinator and his instructor to resolve the matter informally. However, if the student has remaining issues of concern, he may contact the Dean of Students.