



Tips for Working with Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities do not need sympathy; they need academic accommodations to meet the expectations of an academic environment.

- Students should be viewed on the basis of ability, not disability
- Always remember that a student's disability and documentation is confidential and may not be shared with others.
- Avoid fostering dependence in students with disabilities
- Interact with students with disabilities in the same manner as with other students
- Do not assume that a student has a disability and refer the student for accommodations; a student must identify without coercion from college faculty and staff members.
- Treat the student with respect and do not embarrass the student by publicly announcing the student's disability.
- Provide the accommodation recommended by the ADA counselor. If you need to negotiate some aspect of the accommodation, do so with the ADA counselor not the student.
- Do not charge or discuss with a student any monetary requirements for providing accommodations.
- When presented an accommodation letter, never tell the student you will not provide the accommodation. Contact the ADA counselor and voice any concerns you have regarding the accommodation.
- Always seek assistance from the ADA counselor when an accommodation is not, in your opinion reasonable or clear.