

## DISABILITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Holyoke Community College does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admissions or access to, or treatment of, or employment in its programs, services, or activities. Holyoke Community College strives to provide an effective educational environment so that all students may develop to their fullest potentials. The Americans with Disabilities Act (PL 101-336) is a civil rights law which protects the rights of individuals with disabilities. Specifically, the Americans with Disabilities Act states:

A public entity may not deny the benefits of its programs, activities, and services because its facilities are inaccessible. A public entities' services, programs, or activities, when viewed in their entirety, must be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities (Title 11, subtitle A). In keeping with the federal regulations including the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADA AA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Holyoke Community College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to qualified disabled and Deaf students enrolled in its academic programs.

Individuals protected under the law include but are not limited to those having physical disabilities, sensory disabilities, learning disabilities, medical/mental health conditions and also those recovering from alcohol or drug abuse, etc. Students with disabilities are enrolled in college classes in the programs of their choice. The college supports equal access to all college academic and student life opportunities. It is the student's responsibility to make their needs known to the college and to provide appropriate documentation of disability if services are requested. Timely self-identification will ensure that the student's needs are addressed by the beginning of each semester. If accommodations are desired, the student should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities and Deaf Services (OSDDS) immediately upon receiving a letter of acceptance to the college. If a student needs alternative arrangements for the college placement test, he or she must contact the OSDDS to arrange an intake and provide appropriate documentation of disability prior to the testing.

Potential students or their advocates who are uncertain

whether the college can provide for their specific needs are invited to contact the director of Office for Students with Disabilities and Deaf Services prior to applying to the college. All communications are kept strictly confidential and are shared only with the student's permission. Discrimination complaints under the ADA should be directed to:

The Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs  
413.552.2770 (FR 321) or the Title IX Coordinator

Students who need auxiliary aids for effective communications and/or other educational accommodations in programs and services of Holyoke Community College are invited to make their needs and preferences known to:

Office for Students with Disabilities and Deaf Services  
(OSDDS) 413.552.2417 (v/tty) or 536.2317 (VP)  
(DON 147) or email us at [osd@hcc.edu](mailto:osd@hcc.edu)