



Policy Series #: 2000 – Students
Policy Manager: Gary Schindler
Policy –Disability Support Services

PURPOSE: The purpose of this new policy statement is to articulate the range of services provided to disabled students and to ensure college compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

APPLICABILITY:

Disability Support for Students

Riverland Community College’s Commitment:

It is Riverland Community College’s policy to provide access to its programs and facilities to all students and staff so that no one, solely by reason of a disability, is denied access to, participation in, or the benefits of any program or activity. Students and faculty shall receive reasonable accommodations to provide equally effective access to educational opportunities, programs, and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate unless provision for reasonable accommodations would substantially alter essential elements of the academic program or course of study, would otherwise compromise academic standards, or would constitute an undue hardship on the college. This policy shall apply to all programs, services, and activities of the college, including but not limited to recruitment, admissions, registration, financial aid, academic programs, advising, counseling, housing and employment.

This policy is consistent with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which states that no recipient of federal financial assistance may discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities solely by reason of a disability. This policy is also consistent with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Minnesota Human Rights Act.

What We Offer:

Accommodations are individualized based on the needs of each student as identified in documentation of the student’s disability. Examples of what we can do include:

- Review of documentation to establish eligibility for services
- Letters to faculty identifying appropriate course accommodations
- Classroom and course accommodations
- Materials in alternative formats
- Academic aides (note takers, sign language interpreters, readers, scribes, transcription services, etc.)
- Equipment related to academic needs
- Advocacy and Liaison Services

What We Do Not Offer:

- A reduced standard for academic performance
- Special admissions standards
- Special, disability-based courses
- Disability-only tutoring programs
- Personal Care Attendants
- Retroactive consideration if services are requested after the semesters begins. Services only affect the remainder of the semester.
- Substitution of a required courses without specific documentation to support the request

Policy Statement

Riverland Community College is committed to providing an educational atmosphere and experience that is accessible to all qualified students, including students with disabilities. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794 (Section 504), and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. 12131 (the ADA), prohibit high education institutions from discriminating against qualified students with disabilities and require reasonable and effective academic accommodations be provided to qualifying students upon request. It is, therefore, the policy of Riverland Community College not to discriminate against students with disabilities in any program or activity of the college for which a student is qualified, and to provide reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to said students with due regard for the integrity of academic programs.

Reason for the Policy

This policy establishes that Riverland Community College does not discriminate against qualified students with disabilities and that the College is committed to working with students to provide reasonable accommodations to support the students' success in their educational programs. This policy further establishes that the Disability Service Office is the office responsible for providing students with information on how to seek reasonable accommodation for a disability.

Contact

Questions related to the daily operational interpretation of this policy should be directed to the Disability Services Coordinator.

Forms are also available in the Student Success Center, Human Resources Office or by calling 507-433-0569, 800-247-5039, or Minnesota Relay System at 800-627-3529.

All campuses are handicap accessible and requested materials will be made available in alternative format.

DEFINITIONS: *Disability:* A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

Qualified Individual with a Disability: An individual with a disability who, with or without reasonable accommodations, meet the academic and technical eligibility requirements and standards of behavior and performance required of other students.

Reasonable Accommodation: A reasonable accommodation is one that will allow a student with a disability to have an equal opportunity to participate in, and enjoy the benefits of, a

service, course, program or activity of the college without substantially altering essential elements of the academic program or course of study, compromising academic standards, or creating undue administrative or financial burden to the college. Reasonable accommodations may include adjustment to activities or the physical environment of the College. Reasonable accommodations may also include appropriate academic adjustments. Academic adjustments that lower or substantially alter the essential elements of a program, course or curriculum are not "reasonable accommodations." Accommodations that pose a direct threat to the health or safety of the student with a disability or others are not "reasonable accommodations."

DOES THIS POLICY HAVE A PROCEDURE? *NO*

LIST RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES OR PLANS HERE: *(if any)*

Date of Initial Review by President's Cabinet: 12/11/2014

AASC Review (if applicable):

FSGC Review (if applicable): 12/17/2014

Date of Final Approval / Policy Adoption: 3/12/2015

Date & Subject of Revisions: