

## Disability Resource Center New Faculty Informational Handout

### **Students Registered with the DRC at PSU:**

- 1570 current PSU students who have a wide range of diagnoses and needs.
- 92% of these students have disabilities that are “invisible” (such as mental health conditions, learning disabilities, ADHD, brain injuries, chronic health conditions, or Autism/Aspergers)

### **The Registration Process with the DRC:**

Students with disabilities who wish to receive accommodations in their classes, labs, tests, internships, study abroad opportunities, or otherwise **MUST REGISTER** with the DRC.

Students request accommodations from the DRC and present documentation from their doctor, therapist, or treating medical provider. The DRC speaks with the student about the accommodations they are eligible for and the student then selects which of those accommodations they think they may need to use in each class. The faculty then gets an Accommodation Letter from the DRC, listing the accommodations that must be provided.

Students can register with the DRC at any time during the term. However, the letter is valid from that point – forward until the end of the term and no accommodations will be made for any assignment or course requirement that has already passed.

### **Referring Students to the DRC:**

Oftentimes students do not want to register with the Disability Resource Center so we can always use your support in helping to point students in our direction when it’s needed. We recommend pointing out the behavior or difficulty you’re noticing and letting the student know that you are concerned. Follow this with pertinent on or off campus resources, online links to support or other information. As part of those resources, you can let them know about the DRC.

### **Guidepost for Faculty:**

Treat a student with a disability exactly as you would treat anyone else, with exception ONLY to the accommodations listed on the Faculty Letter.

## **Frequently asked questions:**

### **A student has approached me and requested accommodations from me, but says they are not registered and do not want to register with the DRC. What should I do?**

Please explain that the DRC is the only office that can determine reasonable accommodations. You cannot provide accommodations to the student (unless what they're requesting can be given to all the students in the class) until they register and receive the accommodation through the DRC.

### **I received a notification from the DRC in my email. What does it mean?**

The notification you received informs you that the student named is registered with the Disability Resource Center and is eligible to receive the accommodations listed in the email. There's a lot of information there that should be helpful but please contact the DRC if you have any questions about the accommodations or how to provide them.

### **These accommodations don't apply to my class. Is there anything I need to do?**

The student should reach out to you to discuss their accommodation needs in your class but you should reach out to them if that has not already happened. You can talk to them more about the nature of your course (requirements, expectations, learning outcomes, format/environment, etc). They may then let you know that they do not need the accommodations on the letter based on all of that information. However, if after that conversation, there are still questions or concerns, please consult with the DRC.

### **How can I make pop quizzes accessible to students with testing accommodations?**

There are several ways to accommodate pop quizzes for students who have testing accommodations. The simplest way is to have the student come to your office before class to take the quiz. If this doesn't work, consult with the staff at the Disability Resource Center. We will work with you to find a solution that works for everyone.

### **How do I provide an accommodation that alters a measurable outcome?**

Accommodations are not meant to alter the measurable outcomes of the class. Contact the DRC immediately to consult about how best to work with the student to ensure they have equal access. However, you will need to continue giving that accommodation to the student until someone in the DRC either agrees that no accommodation is reasonable or suggests an alternative.

### **Besides providing accommodations, what more can I be doing to help students with disabilities to succeed?**

Be sure to add an updated DRC statement to your syllabus. There are a few examples on our website. Also, when considering what learning outcomes you are gauging and how students will demonstrate that learning, be sure you aren't inadvertently excluding students with disabilities from the course.

## **Disability Resource Center**

**Address:** 116 Smith Memorial Student Union

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**Websites:** [www.pdx.edu/drc](http://www.pdx.edu/drc)

[www.pdx.edu/accessibility](http://www.pdx.edu/accessibility) (University website for accessibility)