Disability Support Services

Information Session
Agenda

• Overview of DSS
• Differences Between K-12 and College
• MC Enrollment Steps
• Applying to Disability Support Services (DSS)
• DSS Intake Process
• Remote Teaching, Learning, and Services
• Questions & Answers
Welcome to Disability Support Services

We are a dedicated team consisting of DSS counselors, assistive technology specialists, learning specialists, peer tutors, interpreters, and administrative aides committed to providing holistic services for students with disabilities at the college.
Transitioning To College:
A Guide For Students With Disabilities

https://youtu.be/BvYhNKYwl4Y
DSS works with a diverse group of students

- Learning disabilities
- Attention-deficit disorder (ADHD/ADD)
- Mental health disabilities (anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, etc…)
- Autism spectrum disorders
- Brain injuries
- Physical and medical disabilities
- Vision and hearing impairments
- Temporary conditions (broken arm/leg, concussion, etc…)

You are not alone!
On average, DSS works with over 1,500 students per semester.
## Key Differences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>K-12</th>
<th>College</th>
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<tr>
<td>IDEA (allows for a free appropriate public education (<em>FAPE</em>))</td>
<td>Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act and ADAAA of 2009</td>
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<td>Educational and psychological testing is provided</td>
<td>Students provide documentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual review and IEP</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parental involvement</td>
<td>Parental involvement changes (confidentiality)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Schools identify needs</strong></td>
<td><strong>Student must seek services</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Case manager &amp; parents advocate</td>
<td>Student advocates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range of services</td>
<td>Accommodations related to access and course requirements</td>
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DSS services are individualized and available college-wide

• Provide academic, personal, and short-term counseling
• Approve and arrange accommodations such as extended time on testing or classroom notes
• Provide alternative text formats and assistive technology
• Provide auxiliary aides such as interpreters
• Assist students with advocacy and communication skills
• Refer students to appropriate college and community resources
• Act as a resource for the student, faculty, and community members
Accommodations & Services

• Assistance with course selection and registration
• Short term counseling and advising: Academic, Career, Personal
• Develop educational plan
• Accommodations letters
• Assistive technology
• Testing accommodations
• Tutoring supports
• Liaison with external agencies
• Classroom accommodations: Notetaker, scribes, interpreters
Accommodations for Remote Learning

**COMMONLY REQUESTED**
- Double time on tests
- Peer notetaker
- Assistive technology applications (text-to-speech, notetaking)

**ADDITIONAL POSSIBILITIES**
- Alternatives to group work
- Alternatives or modifications to oral presentations
- Reduced course load

**NOT PROVIDED**
- Alternatives to group work
- Alternatives or modifications to oral presentations
- Reduced course load
DSS Tutoring Supports

Available *remotely* for all three campuses, at no cost to you!

- Peer tutoring
- Organization and time management skills
- Develop reading, writing, and research skills
- Academic skills workshops
Enrollment Steps: Remote Operations

ALL NEW STUDENTS

1. Apply to Montgomery College (free)
2. Review multiple placement options
3. Complete New Student Orientation and Academic Orientation
4. Registration for Fall 2021 opens May 3, 2021

DSS STUDENTS

1. Apply on-line and submit documentation of disability
2. Meet with a DSS counselor through a virtual appointment
Placement Options: Summer/Fall 2021

1. Alternative Placement Program: Grade Point Average (APPG) 2.75

2. Alternative Placement Program: By Subject (APPE/APPM)

3. SAT/ACT scores

4. Remote placement options for English, Math, and ELAP

*The English, Math, and ELAP options are untimed; if you need accommodations beyond extended-time, meet with DSS prior to testing.*
How to Apply to DSS

• Visit DSS website and click the green New Student Intake button. We use a secure system called Accommodate that will allow you to apply for DSS services. Simply enter your M#, answer a few questions, and click submit.

• Once you complete the new student intake, a DSS staff member will contact you to schedule your intake appointment.
More on Documentation

• Part of the **interactive intake process** includes providing your disability related documentation.
• You can upload your documentation through Accommodate, submit to DSS via email, or scan for your intake appointment.

Check out the documentation guidelines on the DSS website for specific examples.
DSS Intake Appointment
What to expect?

The purpose is to get to know you better!

• What are your goals at Montgomery College?

• How does your disability impact your educational experience?

• What accommodations have you used in the past, and what are considered reasonable at the college level?
Intake Appointment

By the end of the intake process, we'll have discussed:

- The accommodations you are eligible for...
- … and directions on how to use them!
- How to contact your DSS counselor
- What support services are available at MC
- The differences between high school & college accommodations
• You have:
  • Provided appropriate documentation to the DSS Office.
  • Met with a DSS counselor to discuss accommodations and goals.

• DSS office prepares an Accommodation Letter that lists your accommodations.

• You provide that letter to each of your instructors as soon as you get it.

• You may need to discuss accommodations on the letter with your professors (for example, testing arrangements).

• You will need to request your accommodation letter each semester
Most summer and fall 2021 semester classes will be offered in either online or structured-remote format. Some courses are offered in person in the fall, particularly those with labs. Decisions to move into in-person classes/services will depend on state and county guidelines.

WHAT ARE “STRUCTURED-REMOTE” CLASSES?

- The class will meet virtually at a scheduled time (Ex: MWF- 10:00-10:50am)
- Synchronous learning

WHAT ARE “ONLINE” CLASSES?

- The class is designed as a typical distance learning course
- Does not have specific day/time you need to log on
- Asynchronous learning

All support services are currently offered virtually.
Parent to “COACH”

- Offer support, encouragement, and feedback
- Be knowledgeable
- Allow student to advocate for their needs
- Be patient
- Don’t be discouraged
DSS IMPACT

Support

"I feel like I'm being heard"
"DSS was welcoming and knowledgeable"

DSS Counselor
Relationship

"My counselor was always available to assist me with my concerns."
"...they make it very easy to get the help you need"

Receiving
Accommodations

"Having my books in an alternative format"

Students who used accommodations earned higher GPA’s than those who did not.
Don’t forget!

- Apply to Montgomery College
- Determine placement testing
- Apply to DSS services
- Enroll in courses
- Give accommodation letter to your professors
- Maintain contact with your DSS counselor
- Tutors are available at no cost
Thank you for attending!

We look forward to working with you!
Questions?