



Disability Support Services Quarterly Newsletter

Please visit our website: www.ctcd.edu/disability-support

Volume 3, Issue 1 (February 2021)

Contact Information

DSS Office Location, Phone &

Fax Numbers:

Building 111, Room 111

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Toll free: 1-800-792-3348

Extension 1195

Fax: (254) 526-1700

DSS Office Hours:

Mon.-Thurs. 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Friday 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

DSS Team:

Dr. Christy Shank
DSS Director

Wilma Brown-Smith
DSS Coordinator

Ron Porter DSS
Coordinator

Campus Holidays:

Spring Break: March 15 - March 19

Good Friday: April 2

For this edition of the DSS Quarterly Newsletter, DSS provides information on CTC Live! Sessions, discusses hidden/invisible disabilities, and tips for online learning!

Our DSS staff is available to service our students, faculty, and staff during business hours. To schedule a virtual appointment or for assistance with accommodations, please contact one of the following DSS Coordinators:

*Wilma Brown-Smith: wbrown@ctcd.edu or 254-526-1863

*Ron Porter: ron.porter@ctcd.edu or 254-526-1822

Any questions, comments, and suggestions can be sent to:

DSS@ctcd.edu

DSS Mission Statement

DSS is committed to assisting the college so that individuals with disabilities are assured an equal opportunity to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from all college programs, services, and activities. DSS supports individuals with disabilities by coordinating reasonable accommodations and services. We are committed to providing equal access to higher education for academically qualified individuals with disabilities.

Quote of the Quarter

*"It's Not Whether You Get Knocked Down, It's Whether
You Get Up."*

- Vince Lombardi

COVID-19 and CTC's Campus Resources for Students

- * COVID-19 updates and resources can be found at <https://www.ctcd.edu/covid-19-return-to-campus/>

CTC Live!

Various CTC departments are providing great information about campus resources for students. To learn more, you can view CTC Live! sessions via online at <https://www.ctcd.edu/students/ctc-live/>

WHAT IS AN INVISIBLE DISABILITY?

Not all disabilities are readily known or visible to others. Per this, a disability can be referred to as a hidden or invisible disability. The Invisible Disabilities Association (IDA) defines the term succinctly: "In simple terms, an invisible disability is a physical, mental or neurological condition that is not visible from the outside, yet can limit or challenge a person's movements, senses, or activities. Unfortunately, the very fact that these symptoms are invisible can lead to misunderstandings, false perceptions, and judgments."

Disabled-World.com puts it this way:

"Invisible Disability, or hidden disability, is an umbrella term that captures a whole spectrum of hidden disabilities or challenges that are primarily neurological in nature. Invisible disability, or hidden disability, are defined as disabilities that are not immediately apparent. Some people with visual or auditory disabilities who do not wear glasses or hearing aids, or discreet hearing aids, may not be obviously disabled. Some people who have vision loss may wear contacts. A sitting disability is another category of invisible impairments; sitting problems are usually caused by chronic back pain. Those with joint problems or chronic pain may not use mobility aids on some days, or at all. Although the disability creates a challenge for the person who has it, the reality of the disability can be difficult for others to recognize or acknowledge. Others may not understand the cause of the problem, if they cannot see evidence of it in a visible way."

Source: <https://www.accessibility.com/disabilities/invisible-disabilities>

TIPS FOR ONLINE LEARNING

- * Set goals and a schedule at the beginning of the semester
- * Create a positive/productive study space
- * Eliminate distractions
- * Stay organized
- * Keep track of due dates
- * Practice time management
- * Develop a routine and actively participate
- * Use the resources provided by the instructor and use campus resources
- * Check your student email regularly
- * Stay in contact with your instructors



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Mon.-Thurs. 7:30 a.m.- 5:30 p.m.

Closed on Fridays

DSS Team:

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DSS Director

Wilma Brown-Smith
DSS Coordinator

Ron Porter DSS
Coordinator

Campus Holidays & Events:

Spring 2021 Graduation: May 14th

Memorial Day: May 31st

Independence Day: July 5th

For this edition of the DSS Quarterly Newsletter, DSS explains what a learning disability is and provides information on various types of learning disabilities!

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Quote of the Quarter

"Continuous effort - not strength or intelligence - is the key to unlocking our potential."

~ Winston Churchill"

WHAT IS A LEARNING DISABILITY?

According to the Learning Disabilities Association of America, "Learning disabilities are due to genetic and/or neurobiological factors that alter brain functioning in a manner which affects one or more cognitive processes related to learning. These processing problems can interfere with learning basic skills such as reading, writing and/or math. They can also interfere with higher level skills such as organization, time planning, abstract reasoning, long or short term memory and attention." In addition, "A learning disability cannot be cured or fixed; it is a lifelong challenge. However, with appropriate support and intervention, people with learning disabilities can achieve success in school, at work, in relationships, and in the community."

There are several types of learning disabilities:

***Dyscalculia** - A specific learning disability that affects a person's ability to understand numbers and learn math facts.

***Dysgraphia** - A specific learning disability that affects a person's handwriting ability and fine motor skills.

***Dyslexia** - A specific learning disability that affects reading and related language-based processing skills.

***Non-Verbal Learning Disabilities** - Has trouble interpreting nonverbal cues like facial expressions or body language and may have poor coordination.

***Oral / Written Language Disorder and Specific Reading Comprehension Deficit** - Learning disabilities that affect an individual's understanding of what they read or of spoken language. The ability to express one's self with oral language may also be impacted.

Related Disorders:

***ADHD** is a disorder that includes difficulty staying focused and paying attention, controlling behavior and hyperactivity.

***Dyspraxia** is a disorder which causes problems with movement and coordination, language and speech.

***Executive Functioning Disorders** affects, planning, organization, strategizing, attention to details and managing time and space.

Source: <https://ldaamerica.org/types-of-learning-disabilities/>



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Volume 3, Issue 3 (August 2021)

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Campus Holidays & Events:

Labor Day: September 6th

Columbus Day: October 11th

For this edition of the DSS Quarterly Newsletter, DSS explains the difference between high school and college accommodations! College is a different story — starting with the fact that there are no IEPs or special education in college .

Due to COVID-19, the DSS department is currently closed to walk-in visitors. Our DSS staff is available to service our students, faculty, and staff during business hours. To schedule a virtual appointment or for assistance with accommodations, please contact one of the following DSS Coordinators:

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Quote of the Quarter

*"You are never too old to set another goal
or dream a new dream."*

~Les Brown~



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Volume 3, Issue 4 (November 2021)

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Campus Holidays & Events:

Labor Day: Sept. 6

Columbus Day: Oct. 11

Veterans Day: Nov. 11

Thanksgiving Break: Nov. 22-26

Fall 2021 Graduation: Dec. 10

Christmas Break: Dec. 20-31

For this edition of the DSS Quarterly Newsletter, DSS explains reasonable accommodations and what accommodations are not provided at the post-secondary educational level.

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Quote of the Quarter

*"A person who never made a mistake
never tried anything new."*

~Albert Einstein~

What is a "reasonable" accommodation?

- First, to receive an academic accommodation from DSS, the student must first identify to DSS as having a qualified disability and provide medical documentation of a disability (documentation is solely the responsibility of the student). Accommodations are necessary to ensure equal educational opportunities for students with documented disabilities

- Reasonable academic accommodations may vary among students as they are based on the student's specific disability and individual needs based on the documented disability. This means that not all students will receive all accommodations or the same accommodations as another student.

- Academic accommodations may include any of the following:

- *auxiliary aids and services
- *substituting one course for another only when applicable
- *providing note takers or tape recording devices
- *providing sign language interpreters
- *permitting extended time for testing
- *providing separate testing area (reduced distraction test area)
- *large print tests/exams
- *permitting use of test reading software

What is a NOT a "reasonable" accommodation?

-In accordance with postsecondary education laws, college are not required to provide accommodation under certain circumstances. These include the following:

- *colleges are are not required to lower or substantially modify essential course/ program requirements. For example, although your school may be required to provide extended testing time, it is not required to change the substantive content of the test.
- *colleges are not required to make adjustments that would fundamentally alter the nature of a service, program, or activity, or that would result in an undue financial or administrative burden.
- *colleges are not required to provide personal attendants, individually prescribed devices, readers for personal use or study, or other devices or services of a personal nature, such as tutoring and typing. If a personal attendant/aid is needed, it is the responsibility of the student to hire and pay for the personal attendant/aid (student is still required to have the attendant approved by the DSS office as an accommodation).

Source: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html#reproduction%20>

Please visit the DSS website for detailed information on services: www.ctcd.edu/disability-support