

PLuS Perspectives

Information about College Students with LD

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What is an Accommodation?

Accommodations are changes in the ways students acquire information or demonstrate what they have learned. Accommodations are designed to ensure that students have equal access to education and to provide them with the tools they need to be successful.

General accommodations include: Notetakers; audio-taped or videotaped class sessions; extended exam time and a quiet testing location; books on tape, and alternative evaluation methods (i.e., portfolio, oral or video presentations).

Accommodations for math and science classes include: Scratch paper to work out math problems during exams; talking calculators and large display screens for calculators and adding machines.

Accommodations for writing assignments include: A wide variety of assistive technologies. These can include word prediction software, phonetic spelling software and speech recognition software, the latter which enables students to speak their papers into the computer. Concept mapping software which provides a visual representation of relationships between ideas is also helpful in constructing anything from a term paper to a poem.

I think a learning disorder is an obstacle to overcome in terms of learning and getting good grades. This obstacle is a lot easier to overcome when simple accommodations can be made. Just because a student has a learning disorder or ADD, does not mean that the student is not as smart as all the other students. In fact, with simple accommodations a student with a learning disorder can get grades similar to, if not better than their classmates. For example, just getting extra time to take exams can help out tremendously.

- A DePaul Student

Who provides students with accommodations here at DePaul?

The Productive Learning u Strategies Program (PLuS) provides accommodations for students with documented learning disabilities or Attention Deficit / Hyperactive Disorder. See the back for more information on PLuS!

In addition to the PLuS Program, the Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD) provides students with the following accommodations:

- ◆ Real time captioning
- ◆ Adaptive equipment
- ◆ Readers
- ◆ Books on tape
- ◆ Tape recorders
- ◆ Physical access
- ◆ Academic accommodations
- ◆ Access to copy machines
- ◆ Adaptive computer

To receive accommodations from OSD, students should contact the office directly at 773-325-7290 TTY: 773-325-7296.



PLuS Perspectives Continued

Mission of Productive Learning Strategies (PLuS) Program

- To support students with LD by helping them succeed in college while they become educated and independent life-long learners, and
- To provide opportunities for the DePaul community to better understand the difficulties these students have to overcome.

Eligibility for PLuS services:

All DePaul University students with a recent (within the last three years) psychoeducational evaluation with a diagnosis of a Learning Disability and/or Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder are eligible for PLuS services.

Levels of participation in the PLuS program:

- Full Time (two hours per week with a clinician)
- Part Time (one hour per week with a clinician)
- Independent Status (no weekly meetings; accommodations as needed)

These sessions are not for doing homework nor are the clinicians tutors for specific subjects. Examples of what these sessions may be used for are: time management, organization skills, writing skills, reading strategies, etc.

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studentaffairs.depaul.edu/plus/

Services for PLuS Students:

- **Test Proctoring**
 - ◆ Extended time on the exam
 - ◆ Separate room to eliminate distractions
 - ◆ Reader to read the exam's questions
 - ◆ Transcriber to type the student's responses
 - ◆ Computer for the student to type his/her responses
- **Priority Registration**
 - ◆ This accommodation is reserved for those students whose medication schedule may interfere with their class schedule, or those whose processing deficits require specific considerations.
- **Advocacy**
 - ◆ PLuS provides advocacy to resolve issues that may arise between PLuS students and faculty and staff. PLuS staff facilitates communication among PLuS students, faculty and staff to encourage a positive learning environment.
- **Diagnostic Testing**
- **Weekly sessions with an LD specialist (based upon availability)**

Accommodations are provided only to students with documented LD and AD/HD and only as needed.

