

Disability Policy

Oglala Lakota College recognizes physical and mental disabilities that include mobility, sensory, health, psychological, and learning disabilities, and provides reasonable accommodations and/or referrals once the disability is adequately documented.

While Oglala Lakota College's legal obligations only extend to disabilities of a substantial and long-term nature, it is also the College's practice to honor reasonable requests for accommodations and/or referrals for temporary disabilities such as a physical injury, illness, or complicated pregnancy*. In keeping with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and with section 504, Oglala Lakota College can only provide accommodations and/or referrals to ensure students with disabilities equal access to education.

The college does not alter curriculum or provide services that would be construed as special education. Students with disabilities are not exempt from following OLC policies and procedures.

Procedures

It is the responsibility of the student to make his or her disability and needs known in a timely fashion and to provide appropriate documentation and evaluations to support the accommodations the student requests. Documentation must come from an appropriate professional (such as a physician, psychologist, learning disability specialist, or audiologist), and documentation must include information regarding the type of disability, functional limitations, and modes of treatment. Individualized Education Plans (IEP) are not sufficient for documentation requirements. Once admitted the student must notify the Coordinator of Support Services by filling out an Application for Service. If documentation is deemed inadequate, students may be asked to participate in additional evaluations prior to receiving requested accommodations. Once the college has been notified and specific accommodations are requested and appropriately documented, the Coordinator of Support Services will work with the student to obtain the approved accommodations and/or referrals to ensure the student has the opportunity to equal access to education. Oglala Lakota College will provide all students with information regarding the disability policy and OLC's accommodation request procedures via the college's website, student handbook, college catalog, and instructor's syllabus.

These accommodations and/or referrals may not affect the substance of the educational programs or compromise educational standards and will be provided by Oglala Lakota College to the best of the College's ability based on the resources that it has.

Accommodations include but are not limited to the following:

- Accessible classroom/location/furniture/dorms

- Advance notice of assignments

- Alternative ways of completing assignments (e.g., oral presentation versus written paper)

Assistive computer technology

Assistive listening devices

Auxiliary aids and services (note takers, lab or library assistants, readers, interpreters)

Captions for film and video material (if available)

Document conversion (alternative print format: Braille, large print, tape, electronics, raised lettering)

Early syllabus

Financial aid accommodations

Priority Registration

Academic Advising

Referral services to campus, community, and state agencies

Learning disabilities consultation and strategy instruction

Taped lectures

All disability-related documents are kept confidential and shared only with OLC personnel on a limited and need-to-know basis.

Accommodations based on a student's disability can take some time to effect. Delay on the part of the student in seeking accommodations or in meeting required conditions may result in limitations on the ability of the College to provide reasonable accommodation.

*complications due to pregnancy may be a disability if the impairment is not a normal condition of pregnancy and a major life activity is affected. For example, a woman on bed rest under orders from her physician is disabled under the ADA.