

Classroom Access

Much of COCC campus is located on a hillside, and with older buildings that may present accessibility challenges, which require relocation of classes or placement of specialized furniture. Classroom access may also require an additional aid (lab assistant, classroom assistant, library assistant, etc). Classroom access accommodations are generally provided by SSD.

Physical Accommodations

Accessible Classroom/Classroom Relocation

This is exactly what it sounds like. Some of our classrooms are inaccessible or impossible to use for students with certain disabilities. SSD works with the registrar's office and the faculty member to find a new location for the class.

Accessible Computer

While accessibility addresses more than physical access, this particular accommodation refers specifically to how physically accessible the computer desk is. Can the height be adjusted? Is there enough room underneath for a wheelchair or a footstool as necessary?

Accessible Fieldtrips

COCC is responsible for ensuring access to all facets of learning - that includes making sure fieldtrips and other class outings are accessible.

How Faculty Can Help

If you have a student who has a mobility concern, make sure you check the accessibility of your class trip destinations before the trip. If you will be visiting a business or other building, are there accessible routes and entrances? For outdoor trips, are there paved or other wheelchair accessible paths? How are you getting to the destination? Can the student access the transportation?

Furniture

Chairs

Some students need chairs that provide them with additional back support, padding, or space. This furniture is managed by SSD and Campus Services.

How Faculty Can Help

Faculty members often like our chairs - they are more comfortable than most classroom furniture, and we do not mind them being used, so long as they are in place for our students when they are needed. Please do not use or block the SSD chairs when there is a student in your class who receives a lumbar support chair as an accommodation.

Tables

SSD provided tables are large and sometimes height-adjustable, with no obstructions in the center. This allows students using SSD lumbar support chairs and students using wheelchairs to have a table that they can adjust to the height they need.

How Faculty Can Help

These tables are often pushed to the sides or the teaching areas of the classroom over time. SSD works to make sure that the tables are placed properly at the beginning of each term. Many of the students who need these tables cannot move them. Please be aware that a student may need assistance, if someone in a previous class has moved or blocked a table.

Preferential Seating

Some students with disabilities need to sit in a specific part of the classroom due to access, allergies, medical need, visibility, volume, etc. Most students are able to get a seat in an acceptable location on their own. However, particularly in large or crowded classrooms, students may work with SSD and faculty to reserve a seat.

In-Class Assistants

Classroom Assistant

SSD occasionally provides an in-class assistant for students. Classroom assistants are assigned for a variety of reasons, but they are meant only to be the hands or eyes of the student they are helping. They will not participate in class, and should not coach or prompt the student. They are only in class to perform tasks as the student directs them and should not attend class in lieu of the student.

Lab Assistant

SSD occasionally provides a lab assistant for students. Lab assistants are assigned for a variety of reasons, but they are meant only to be the hands or eyes of the student they are helping. They will not coach or prompt the student. They are only in the lab to perform tasks as the student directs them.

In-Class Services Animal

Service Animals are specially trained to perform a specific task. The task could be one of many, from acting as a guide for someone who is blind or has low vision, to warning of an oncoming medical emergency such as a seizure. If you have questions about service animals in classroom or lab settings, please contact us. For more information, see our Service and Assistant Animal Policy. <https://www.cocc.edu/disability-services/service-and-assistance-animal-policy/>