

LEARNING DISABILITY PROGRAM AND SERVICES

OSD has a comprehensive learning disability (LD) program that provides support services for students who have a verified learning disability. Students must have been tested by an appropriate professional and must meet the California Community College criteria based on standardized test scores to receive LD services. OSD also provides LD testing for students who have been experiencing long-term academic difficulties and who wish to be tested for a learning disability. For more information regarding our LD program and services call Mike Hancock, Learning Disability Specialist at (661) 722-6300, ext. 6162, or e-mail, "mhancock@avc.edu".

Learning Disability Testing

To request testing you must be at least 16 years of age at the time of testing and be an AVC student. You need to start the process by coming to the OSD Office and signing up for the LD Testing Orientation.

The group orientation is mandatory. It will cover all aspects of the Learning Disability procedures and help decide if testing is needed. Please bring any questions and paperwork that may be helpful during this appointment. Your active participation and attendance are required for the testing process. You will also be given an intake questionnaire that needs to be filled out and brought back to the OSD office. The information that you provide on the intake questionnaire deals with your personal, medical and educational history. This information will insure that OSD provides you with all the accommodations you are entitled to. The intake questionnaire will require about one hour to complete.

Important!!! You will not be scheduled for any LD testing until we receive the intake questionnaire.

The entire LD Assessment Process is done over three appointments. The first two appointments will take about three hours each to complete with the third appointment being one hour in length. It is imperative that you keep all scheduled testing appointments, as we have many students wishing to be tested. Failing to keep a scheduled appointment, or to cancel your appointment 48 hours prior to your appointment, may result in you being placed on a waiting list or having your testing postponed until the following semester.

The first scheduled appointment, the cognitive testing portion of the LD assessment, primarily deals with your verbal skills, processing speed, working memory and of your perceptual organizational abilities. This will determine the cause of your learning disability or processing deficit. The auditory and visual processing appointment, the achievement testing, focuses on your reading, written language and mathematics skills to determine how your processing deficit

affects you academically. For the third appointment, the LD Specialist will review with you the results of your LD testing and recommend possible educational accommodations that will be helpful to you.

The following seven steps are necessary to complete the LD assessment process:

1. Students must be at least 16 years of age when the LD assessment is administered.
2. Students must be enrolled in at least one class.
3. Sign up for a Learning Disability Testing Orientation.
4. Complete the intake questionnaire and bring it back to the OSD office located at the T100 building, so you can be scheduled for the LD Initial.
5. First scheduled appointment, the cognitive testing which is an assessment of your verbal skills, processing speed, working memory and of your perceptual organizational abilities will be administered. This appointment will take about three hours.
6. Second scheduled appointment, the achievement testing which is an assessment of your reading, written language and mathematics will be administered. This appointment will take approximately three hours.
7. Third appointment will be scheduled where the LD Specialist will go over your results. This will include an interpretation of the variety of tests you took and recommendations as to what accommodations and support services you should utilize to maximize your educational success.

IMPORTANT!!!

If you cannot keep your appointment, please give OSD at least 48 hours notice, so we can provide your testing appointment to another student. Failure to notify us may result in being placed on a waiting list. If extenuating circumstances exist, you may make an appointment with the (LD Specialist or the Director) to ask for an exception.

If you qualify for services under the LD Program, you will be eligible for some of the following services. You and the LD Specialist will meet to discuss your specific needs:

- Course selection and registration assistance prior to your next semester.
- Alternative study and learning strategies.

- Test taking strategies
- Notetakers to provide lecture and lab course notes.
- Time extension when taking exams; generally 1½ times the allotted time given in the class.
- Recorded textbooks on tape from Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D).
- Equipment checkout: digital/cassette recorders, calculators, Alpha Smart word processors, etc.
- Kurzweil 3000 - converts print into synthetic speech using a PC and scanner.
- Text books or class handouts converted into electronic text which can be used by Kurzweil 3000.
- Software programs in the High Tech Center (HTC) that work on improving memory, concentration and determining your best modes for learning.
- Language devices that help with spelling, definition, and usage of words.