

Shared Governance Policy

SGP 501: Access and Support for Students with Disabilities

Purpose: To describe the College's approach and establish procedures related to providing equal opportunity to students with disabilities by ensuring the provision of nondiscriminatory access and supports, and by asserting that the College will not discriminate against students with disabilities.

References:

Sections [504](#) and [508](#) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

[Americans with Disabilities Act 1990, ADA Amendment Act 2008](#)

[Pennsylvania Human Relations Act 1955, amended 1997](#)

SGP 113 Service Animals

Definitions: See [Shared Governance Policy Glossary](#)

Policy:

- I. In implementing its nondiscrimination policy, the College will:
 - A. Prohibit use of disability status as a basis for excluding a qualified student with a disability from any College course, program, activity, or service.
 - B. Ensure that each College program or activity is, when viewed in its entirety, accessible to and usable by students with disabilities to the extent required by law.
 - C. Make reasonable accommodations to the College's policies, practices, and procedures when such accommodation is necessary to avoid discrimination on the basis of disability.
 - D. Determine that accommodations are not reasonable when they include actions that would fundamentally alter the nature of a service, program, or activity or would impose undue financial costs or undue administrative hardship on the College.
 - E. Take appropriate steps to ensure that communications with students with disabilities are as effective as communications with others.
 - F. Seek to promote student independence and to maintain a supportive learning environment for students with disabilities.
 - G. Prohibit separate or special treatment that is not desired by the student with a disability unless such treatment is necessary to provide a qualified student with a disability with aids, benefits, or services that are as effective as those provided to other students.
 - H. Prohibit discrimination against students on account of their association with persons with disabilities.
- II. Assistant Vice President for Holistic Support and Engagement will serve as the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator as well as Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Accessibility and Pregnancy and Parenting with regard to student issues.

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- III. The College is responsible for making the College community aware of this nondiscriminatory policy by addressing the issue, including procedures for securing reasonable accommodations, in College publications including the College Catalog, the Student Handbook, the College website, and handbooks for employees.