

## **RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS OF DIFFERING ABILITIES**

Mercer County Community College offers an inclusive learning environment that serves a diverse student population. The College is committed to providing continuing support to students with documented disabilities who are entitled to receive reasonable academic accommodations.

In addition to providing reasonable academic accommodations, Mercer County Community College offers an array of services that facilitate intellectual and personal development. Professional tutorial support, study skills support, academic counseling and academic advisement are available through Academic Student Resources.

### **REQUESTING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

Students who would like to request reasonable academic accommodations based on a differing ability should make an intake appointment with the Office of Special Services. Students will complete an intake packet and be asked to share assessments establishing the presence of a disability that substantially limits a major life activity and supports the need for academic accommodations. Assessments must be performed by qualified professionals and shall include:

- The credentials of the evaluator
- A clear diagnostic statement identifying the disability
- A clear statement describing the impact of the disability on the student within the educational setting
- For psychiatric diagnoses, DSM V classification codes are required
- The assessment must be typed on professional letterhead, signed and dated
- Prescription pad documentation is not an acceptable format for establishing a disability

## DOCUMENTATION GUIDELINES

Assessments must be provided by qualified professionals. Examples of appropriate assessments are provided below. This list is not exhaustive and any questions or concerns should be addressed with the Office of Special Services.

<p><b>Learning Disabilities</b></p>	<p>Educational and/or psychological evaluations performed by a licensed psychologist, school psychologist, neuropsychologist or learning disabilities specialist are appropriate for validating learning disabilities. The reports must identify the battery of tests administered and provide scores.</p>
<p><b>ADD / ADHD</b></p>	<p>Evaluations performed by a licensed psychologist, psychiatrist, neuropsychologist, LCSW or psychiatric nurse practitioner are appropriate for validating ADD/ADHD. Evaluations must be typed on professional letterhead, signed, dated and include a DSM V code, a diagnostic statement and the impact of the diagnosis on academic ability.</p>
<p><b>Visual Impairments</b></p>	<p>Verification of disability by formal signed letter from a physician whose specialty is eyes, a DVR counselor or Commission of the Blind caseworker is appropriate for validating visual impairments.</p>
<p><b>Hearing Impairments</b></p>	<p>Verification of disability by formal signed letter from an audiologist, DVR counselor or school for the deaf representative is appropriate for validating hearing impairments.</p>
<p><b>Chronic Medical Conditions</b></p>	<p>Verification of chronic medical conditions by formal signed letter from treating specialist indicating the condition and its impact on a major life activity and academic ability.</p>
<p><b>Psychiatric Disabilities</b></p>	<p>Evaluations performed by a licensed psychologist, psychiatrist, neuropsychologist, LCSW or psychiatric nurse practitioner are appropriate for validating psychiatric conditions. Evaluations must be typed on professional letterhead, signed, dated and include DSM V codes, a diagnostic statement and describe the impact of the diagnosis on academic ability.</p>