

Accommodating Students with Disabilities

Hispanic Studies spanish.cofc.edu and the Center for Disability Services disabilityservices.cofc.edu 843-953-1431
SNAP (& non-SNAP) Spanish Instructor: Allie Zaubi zaubia@cofc.edu / Work: 843-953-7302 & Cell: 843-518-1196

Universal Design Instruction (UDI)

An instructional approach to teaching *all* learners both disabled and non-disabled.
UDI attempts to reach all learners by making instruction / assessment diversified and accessible.
Contact Allie Zaubi for more information regarding UDI.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act 1990 requires that students with documented disabilities receive reasonable accommodations in the classroom. Accommodations only apply to students who have submitted and reviewed their PNL (Professor Notification Letter) one week in advance of receiving accommodations. Approximately 900 of the 11,000 students enrolled at College of Charleston are SNAP students; however, there are more students with disabilities on campus but choose to not receive SNAP services. Therefore, it is likely you will encounter a student with a disability in your classroom. Please note that legally the SNAP student should only use approved accommodations in your course, and that the instructor should not modify the course for the student. SNAP students have been accepted competitively to CofC and are expected to meet the same standards as their peers by applying their approved accommodations. (For example, a student with an auditory processing disorder should meet the same expectations as peers by applying approved accommodations such as a note taker and assistive technology. See below for examples of assistive technology.)

Disability Statement in Syllabus

Please review and include a Disability Statement in your course syllabi.
Sample (from Deborah Mihal, Director of SNAP/Center for Disability Services):
The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply for services at the Center for Disability Services/SNAP located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying the instructor as soon as possible and for contacting the instructor one week before accommodation is needed.

PNL & Confidentiality

On the introduction day (first day) of classes, invite any students approved for SNAP services to your office hours to discuss their Professor Notification Letter, or "PNL," with you. Sometimes the student may wish to utilize only some accommodations of his/her approved accommodations in your course. Remember that, by law, the student does not have to disclose his/her disability with you. Should he/she voluntarily disclose his/her disability and that he/she is a SNAP student, this information must remain confidential. Instead of focusing on the disability, ask the student for advice on how to best meet his/her learning needs. Students with disabilities often have great advice in terms of enhancing their learning.

Common Disabilities at CofC

(The following is an approximation.)
850 SNAP students
50% Learning Disorder or a type of AD/HD.
25% Physical Disability
25% Psychological Disability

Common Accommodations at CofC

Priority Registration
Extended Time (less distracting room)
Computer Use (for notes or in-class essays)
Assistive Technology (Dragon, JAWS, Zoom Text, etc)*
Note-Takers*
Alternative Format Texts*

Alternatives (for SNAP students who have been approved for alternatives)

Math
Foreign Language
SNAP Spanish is not an alternative. (See SNAP Spanish description below.)
AD/HD diagnoses do not warrant approval for alternatives but do make student eligible for SNAP Spanish as long as they have been approved for SNAP services.

*These accommodations require assistance of the SNAP Office.

Suspecting a Student with an Undiagnosed Disability

Talk to student and discuss concerns regarding performance. Do *not* diagnose the student with a disability.
Recommend student talk to CDS/SNAP (disabilityservices.cofc.edu, snap@cofc.edu or 953-1431) or Professor Zaubi (zaubia@cofc.edu) for further support and/or guidance.
There are no legal obligations to provide accommodations to non-SNAP students.

SNAP Spanish

A 3 credit (MWF) departmental Spanish class designed based on UDI for students who have been approved for SNAP services
SNAP Spanish students may or may not be approved for language alternatives.

SNAP Spanish Schedule: Fall SPAN 101 & SPAN 201. Spring SPAN 102 & SPAN 202