

Disability Resource Center

Student Self-Advocacy:

Know your rights & how to request services



What is Section 504 and ADA?

In accordance with **Section 504** of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its 1974/1975 amendments and the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** of 1990, Riverside Community College District endeavors to make reasonable accommodations in its policies, practices, and facilities, to ensure equal opportunity for eligible persons with disabilities to participate in all programs and activities.

What is Self-Advocacy?

Self-advocacy is, in basic terms, speaking up for yourself and letting others know what you need.

Who will know about my disability?

The only people who will know about your disability are those you choose to tell!

***DRC does not share your documentation with any other program at the college.**

It is best to let your instructors know of your intention to use your services through **DRC** so that we can work together in the best way possible!
Remember, the services are here to help you.

What do I do if my teacher says no?

Often, the only reason instructors may say “no” is because they do not fully understand how **DRC** works or what their role is as a partner under ADA.

When in doubt, ask a DRC specialist!

Know Your Civil Rights!

Whenever a special accommodation or auxiliary aid is necessary in order to assure access to and full participation by students with disabilities in college programs or services, the department or service responsible for the program or service to which the individual requires access, will work with the office of **Disability Resource Center (DRC)** to ensure that reasonable adjustments are made. Title II of the ADA prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities by public entities.

Included are:

- Universities
- Colleges
- Technical schools.

Prohibition against discrimination is broad & encompasses all programs, activities, & services that Norco College provides; ADA requires that people with disabilities have **an equal opportunity** to benefit from and/or participate in all services and/or events the college provides or hosts.

What if my teacher says they will accommodate me instead?

If your instructor says that they will accommodate your need, understand that it is still your right to have your adjustments met by the **DRC** office.

What are Reasonable Adjustments?

Reasonable Adjustments are the services that are outlined specifically for you by the counselor you meet with through **DRC**.

Not everyone gets the same adjustments; **DRC** is not a “one size fits all” type of program.

DRC Adjustments are Individualized

The adjustments you receive are based on your individual disability. The documentation you provide to the program defines the services that will be most helpful for you.

When should I tell my instructors about my disability?

When you first begin building your relationship with your instructor is when you should let them know of your participation in **DRC**.

The sooner they know, the sooner they can begin to assist you and **DRC** in providing your academic adjustments.

Create your Plan of Action

Create a plan of action for your new semester and utilize your adjustments through **DRC**.

Plan and understand how adjustments work. Review your adjustments with a **DRC** specialist and request them along with enrolling for the new term.

**Any Questions?
Email the DRC at**

drc@norcocollege.edu