

## **Disability Resource Center (DRC) Information Sheet for Students and Student-Serving Offices**

### **What students need to know about working with the DRC:**

- The DRC facilitates access and accommodations for students who experience barriers in University environments related to health or disability.
- The DRC works with students and instructors to identify and implement accommodations that reduce barriers. This can take time and back and forth communication. Students need to plan in advance.
- In higher education, reasonable accommodations facilitate access and do not compromise the process and learning outcomes of the class or program. They are intended to be put into place proactively and cannot be required retroactively.
- Accommodations cannot guarantee that students will be successful. Other factors related to student success are appropriate level of preparedness, effort, use of self- and time-management strategies and skills, and engagement in treatment and or other care if applicable.
- Making an initial appointment is the way to get started for students who experience a pattern of barriers related to a disability or health condition. An initial appointment is up to 50 minutes in length. It is helpful but not essential to bring documentation of disability or health barriers to this appointment. Students can contact the DRC at 612-626-1333 or [drc@umn.edu](mailto:drc@umn.edu) to request an initial appointment.
- Drop in is available for students who are exploring whether the DRC may be helpful in their situation. Students can ask questions, and explore how to address newly emerging issues related to health or disability. Drop-in appointments are typically limited to 10-15 minutes in length.
- At the beginning of the semester and after the midpoint of the semester, the DRC is very busy. There can be a 2-week waiting period. Students need to plan in advance.

### **What happens when students go to the DRC:**

- The DRC front desk is in McNamara Alumni Center Suite 180. When students arrive, they inform the front desk that they are there for an appointment or drop in.
- Drop in meetings are time-limited (10-15 minutes). Students seeking accommodation with the DRC should expect to make an initial appointment to follow up after their drop in conversation.

- An access consultant will bring the student to their office and explore the presenting concern.
- Students will be asked to discuss their health or disability-related barriers. It is helpful for students to consider in advance the barriers they experience in different learning environments: activities in classrooms (lecture, discussion, group work, etc.), the process of doing out of class work, research and writing, labs and studios, testing and quizzes, and presentations and portfolios.
- Students will be asked for documentation of health or disability barriers from a professional who understands and can explain the student's barriers in a learning environment. There is no single "right" type of documentation. If the student has documentation from a provider, they should bring it to the appointment or drop-in meeting. If they do not have documentation at the time of the meeting, the access consultant can help them request it.

### **What can the DRC do if students are not doing well in classes?**

- For health or disability-related reasons, students may fall behind in assignments and coursework and may miss classes and exams. In these cases, students are best served by 1) informing instructors that a disability or health condition has been affecting their coursework and 2) exploring their academic standing in the class and their options for completion. Depending on the amount of work done to date, students's current grade, students's current state of health, and the number of weeks/days left in the semester, options may include:
  - arranging to complete course(s) with or without loss of points,
  - negotiating Incomplete(s) with instructor(s),
  - withdrawing from selected course(s),
  - withdrawing from all courses.
- The DRC can assist in the inquiry process with instructors and verify when students are registered with the DRC.
- The DRC will explore what if any accommodations might be reasonable at this point in the semester.
- The DRC can explore course learning outcomes and requirements regarding attendance and timely completion of assignments and exams. We cannot require instructors to modify their learning objectives or outcomes for students with disabilities.
- Students can talk through their decision-making process with the DRC. The access consultant may also refer them to speak with their advisor, One Stop, or another relevant contact.
- The DRC can assist students in proactive planning for next semester in order to have more supports and strategies in place, including accommodations, from the beginning of the semester.