Disabled Support Programs and Services provides support to students with physical, communication, psychological, developmental, and specific learning disabilities who are enrolled in class on and off campus.

The Learning Disability Program offers Adult LD testing to qualified students currently attending SJDC.

Courses offered through our program include classes, designed to improve memory, computer, organizational, and academic skills for our students.

The Learning Disability office offers each student the opportunity to succeed academically, shows them how to create a pathway toward their success, and establishes a working environment in which they will succeed.

Our goal is to empower students to not to achieve their academic goals.

**Learning Disabilities**

DeRicco Student Services Building, Room 115  
5151 Pacific Ave  
Stockton, CA 95207  
(209) 954-5151, x: 6113  
www.deltacollege.edu/dept/dsps/learning_disabilities

**Hours of operation:**

DeRicco Building  
Monday-Thursday (8:30 am to 4:00 pm)  
Friday (8:30 am to 12:00 pm)

Cunningham 220A  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday  
(1:30 pm to 5:00 pm)  
Friday (11:00 am to 3:00 pm)

*(Cover photo courtesy of Stan Rapada)*

“Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome.”  
----Booker T. Washington (1856-1915)
The Learning Disabilities Program

What is a Learning Disability?

A learning disability is a permanent condition which affects how people with average or above average intelligence take in, store, or express information. Although their overall intelligence is high and they can learn and do many things, one or more significant processing deficits cause academic difficulties. Like interference on the radio or a fuzzy TV picture, incoming or outgoing information may become scrambled as it travels between the eye, ear, or body, and the brain.

“Students with learning disabilities usually have areas of difficulty that are in marked contrast to other areas where they excel. Some may learn well through lectures, but have extreme difficulty reading. Others may express themselves very well orally, but spell or write very poorly. Each person possesses a unique combination of strengths and weaknesses.” Wren and Segal, DePaul University

It is important to identify what learning disabilities are NOT. They are not a form of mental retardation because the definition specifies that the person must have at least average intelligence. They are not related to psychological disabilities or emotional disorders, and they are not the result of cultural or ethnic differences. Students who are under prepared for college or who are still learning English may experience some of the same difficulties in school as those with LD, but their problems are not the result of a processing deficit, so they are not eligible for learning disability assistance.

What problems do college students with learning disabilities have?

Reading:

- Reading rate may be slower.
- Words may be hard to identify or similar words may be easily confused.
- Comprehension could be low, or the person may not recall what was read.

Math:

- Frequent computation errors or transition of numbers.
- Incomplete mastery of basic facts
- Trouble with word problems, Difficulties remembering the steps.
- Mistakes sequencing operations.
- Difficulty understanding abstract concepts or speed may be compromised.

Writing:

- Frequent spelling mistakes.
- Difficulty with sentence structure.
- Inability to copy correctly from book or blackboard.
- Organizing one’s thoughts could be difficult.
- Poor or slow penmanship may be a problem, or weak vocabulary could affect writing.

Organization/Study Skills:

- Time management difficulties.
- Getting organized could be a problem.
- Those with spatial disorientation may feel lost.
- Trouble following directions.
- Short attention span.
- Difficulty taking notes, or misreading social cues and non-verbal messages may cause difficulties.

Do Learning Disabilities change over time?

The pattern of strengths and weaknesses will always be with the person; however, LD is often inconsistent. It may present problems one day, but not the next. It may cause difficulties in some academic areas, or surface in several subjects. It could be more pronounced under stressful conditions, such as during timed tests. As students learn more about their unique learning styles, they can often learn to use their strengths and support services to minimize the effects of their learning disabilities.

How does Delta College assist students who may have a learning disability?

Free diagnostic assessments for Learning Disabilities Eligibility are available through DSPS. Talk with a DSPS Counselor for more information. Academic accommodations may be authorized, depending on the nature and severity of a student learning disabilities. The Learning Disabilities Specialist will determine students’ eligibility for reasonable accommodations.

Please contact:

Becky Miller
Learning Disability Coordinator
DeRicco Student Services Building, Rm 105
San Joaquin Delta College
(209) 954-5151 ext.6113