“More Alike Than Different”

Disability Resource Center

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Mission Statement

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides students with disabilities quality and excellence in programs, services and support which enhance the quality of community life, and the development of individual potential for a global environment. The DRC strives to equalize student educational opportunities and to support as well as educate the faculty, staff, and community.

Overview

Gavilan College provides a variety of services through the DRC office in an effort to equalize educational opportunities for students with disabilities as they move toward their educational or vocational goals. Students with a verified disability that meet Gavilan College admission requirements are eligible.

Accessibility/Parking

Gavilan College is an accessible campus. Ramps provide access to upper and lower malls. Mobility assistance can be provided for students with physical limitations. Designated parking is provided for vehicles displaying a disability placard/parking permit.

Costs/Fees

The prevailing fees for registration and parking are applicable. Waivers may be available. Please contact the DRC Counselor for financial aid or waiver information.
Services

The following services are provided to students enrolled through the Disability Resource Center:

Academic, Career, Personal Counseling
Registration Assistance/Priority Registration
Academic Support Referrals and Coordination
Note Takers
Readers
Sign Language Interpreters
On-Campus Transportation
Learning Skills Assessment
Mobility Assistance
Educational Tutoring

High Tech Center with Assistive Computer Technology
Vocational Aptitude Testing
WorkAbility Job Training and Placement
Referral Services
Support Classes in Math, Reading, and Writing
Test Proctoring
Specialized Adapted PE Equipment
 Liaison with Local, State, and Federal Agencies
Alternate Media
Multi-Media Educational Aids
Adaptive Equipment, such as:
  - Tables
  - Tape Recorders
  - Amplification System
  - Clarity Classmate
HOPE
A Rehabilitative Partnership

Gavilan College's Disability Resource Center (DRC), in partnership with HOPE Rehabilitation Services, provides vocational training and supervised work experience at two Work Activity Centers for students 16 years of age or older. The Gavilan/HOPE program is strongly committed to providing services that promote growth toward greater independence as well as to assist persons with disabilities to live and work in their own community enjoying the same options and choices as persons without disabilities.

HOPE provides assessments, job training, job readiness classes, and supported employment services for people with developmental disabilities. HOPE's Work Activity Center provides the opportunity for individuals to earn money while increasing work productivity and interpersonal skills.

Gavilan's instructional staff provide individual and group training and classes in the following vocational areas.

Community Awareness Mobility
Computer Assisted Instruction
Employment Preparation
Fine and Gross Motor Skill Development
Independent Living Skills
Leadership Training
Person Centered Planning
Self-Advocacy
Training for Specific Work Skills
Vocational Assessment/Evaluation
Work Skills/Behaviors

Specific work skills, needs, occupational potentials and vocational interests of each student are assessed. Individual education and rehabilitation program plans are developed by both Gavilan and HOPE in cooperation with the student and the referring agencies annually.

Contract work from various companies in an integrated production environment provides actual on-site paid work experience for students.
Adapted Physical Education

Adapted Physical Education is a comprehensive program designed for students with physical disabilities. Classes offered enable students to improve flexibility and range of motion, increase joint movement, improve circulation, and improve control of body movement. Special attention is given to activity programs that meet the interest and individual functional capacities of students who may not safely or successfully engage in the activities of the regular Physical Education program.

Classes are provided by qualified instructors through a number of water and gym activities. Instruction available in:
- Adapted Aquatic Exercise
- Adapted Swimming for Total Fitness
- Adapted Physical Education
- Adapted Cardiovascular Conditioning and Training

Two outdoor pools are used for aerobic and swim classes throughout the day. Our pools are maintained year-round and kept at a comfortable 83-84 degrees.

Guvilan College has recently opened a state-of-the-art Fitness Center and Mini Gym Facility. We offer a mini gym that is a great facility for wheelchair basketball and related wheelchair exercises. The floor material is firm, yet soft, ideal for floor exercises. The gym includes an adjustable basketball rim, floor marking for badminton and basketball. The Fitness Center is a facility containing the very finest in exercise equipment. Cardiovascular equipment available for student use:
- Four Monark Stationary Bikes
- Five SciFit Machines; wheelchair accessible
- Two Trackmaster Treadmills
- Three Flexicisers (primarily used by wheelchair students)

Strength, balance and stretching equipment available for student use:
- Chord Machines — designed for hamstring stretching
- Uprightone Machines — specifically designed for wheelchair students but useful for other individuals with disabilities
- Easy Stand 6000 — Standing frame for upper and lower extremity use
- K.A.T. Balance Trainer — excellent for improving balance due to injury and/or post surgery
- Magnum Fitness Systems — Fourteen individual machines each designed for specific muscular groups
- Stair Climber — Improve strength and balance
- Stretching Tables
The Learning Skills Program

The Learning Skills Program is designed to serve students with learning disabilities. These challenges can affect classroom performance, making it difficult for students to succeed without classroom accommodations and specific compensatory techniques, specialized instruction, or other support services.

Students may be referred by instructors, counselors, or community agencies. After an initial interview, individual diagnostic testing is conducted. Upon completion of the assessment, the student meets with an LD Specialist for an interpretation of the test results and receives recommendations to enhance academic success.

The program has three components. The Assessment component includes:
- Guidance 557 — Learning Skills Assessment

The Instructional component includes:
- Guidance 558 — Learning Skills Laboratory
- Guidance 560 — Individualized Basic Skills Development
- Guidance 561 — Writing Skills
- Guidance 562 — Directed Study Lab in Arithmetic
- Guidance 563A&B — Directed Study Lab in Algebra
- Guidance 564 — Directed Study Lab in Pre-Algebra

The Services component allows students with verified learning disabilities to request special services and accommodations, including priority registration, note-taker services, and extended time on exams.

Referral

Students may be referred by instructors, counselors, community agencies or may refer themselves. An appointment is scheduled for an initial interview where the student and specialist can discuss any problems the student is experiencing in learning and decide whether further assessment is appropriate.

Assessment and Diagnosis of Learning Disabilities

After the initial interview, an individual diagnostic assessment is conducted by appointment. The assessment includes an achievement component in basic skills, such as reading, spelling, math, and written language and a cognitive/perceptual component which includes auditory and visual memory and perception, and verbal and non-verbal reasoning abilities. Upon completion of the assessment, a diagnosis of the student’s specific learning disability is made, if indicated. The Learning Disabilities Specialist makes recommendations for placement in the Learning Skills Laboratory, if appropriate, and/or in other college programs or courses. The evaluation, recommendations and suggested learning strategies are discussed with the student.

Student Educational Contracts

If, after completion of the diagnostic assessment, the Learning Disabilities Specialist determines that the student is eligible for the Learning Skills Program, the specialist develops a Student Educational Contract for the student. The Contract includes long term goals and each semester’s objectives (college courses and/or student educational contract).

Instruction

The program offers four types of instruction:
- Small groups
- One-to-one tutoring
- Supervised independent labwork
- Support Classes

The instruction is based on the Student’s Educational Contract and may include reading comprehension, spelling, writing, grammar, mathematical computation, application, learning strategies, on-line research, and word processing.
DRC High Tech Center

Gavilan College's High Tech Center was established in 1997 to provide students with verified disabilities access to computers and computer training through state-of-the-art assistive computer technology. The key to computer access is Assistive Technology: hardware and software designed to provide effective, independent interaction between a disabled individual and the computer.

This new technology uses specialized hardware modifications and software modifications to enhance student productivity. The technology, for example, permits blind students to "read" the screen, students with physical disabilities to use their hands to use voice recognition to "type", and students with learning disabilities to improve their writing and reading comprehension.

The High Tech Center provides specialized courses, assistive software, adaptive equipment and trained staff to empower students with disabilities to meet their educational goals. The skills and knowledge a student gains in the High Tech Center can be taken to other campuses, universities and ultimately, to the work place.

With the latest in technological equipment and software, any student that has a desire can learn something new or fine tune what they already know.

Who Can Benefit?

- Students with low vision can enlarge text and graphics on the monitor.
- Computer users who are blind can use a screen reading program that reads the screen aloud via speech synthesizer.
- Students with visual impairments and students with reading difficulties may learn to use a program that scans text and reads it aloud.

- Students with reading difficulties may use a program, which highlights their writing on the monitors as it reads it aloud.
- Students with severe physical disabilities may learn to use a speech recognition system or assistive software/equipment to access the computer.
- Students with learning disabilities may use automatic spelling and grammar checkers to improve their writing skills.

Assistive Technology Courses

Course Requirements: All these courses are intended for students with a verified disability that show a need for the use of adaptive computer programs, equipment or demonstrated academic deficit.

CSIS 570 Computer Access Evaluation: This course is designed to provide the student with an in-depth computer access evaluation in order to determine an appropriate access environment.

CSIS 571 Computer Assisted Instruction: This course is an assistive computer technology lab designed for students to improve their basic academic, computer and/or cognitive skills through the use of appropriate software or to learn assistive devices designed to make computers accessible.

CSIS 572 Adaptive Computer Basics: This self-paced course includes an introduction to the basic concept of how computers work, using the computer keyboard, word-processing, computer ethics and presentation graphics.
Counseling

Counselors are available through the Disability Resource Center to assist students in planning and obtaining their educational goals. Our counselors specialize in providing support to students with their academic course work and facilitating and developing tools to manage their personal, academic, and vocational goals.

Services include:
- Registration Assistance
- Accommodations for equal access
- Advocacy with faculty for accommodating specific learning needs
- Assistance with obtaining an academic degree
- Four year transfer degree assistance
- Career/Educational planning
- Liaison with Local, State and Federal Agencies
- Short-term Personal Counseling
- Referral to Community Resources

Campus Tours
- Placement assessment testing in local high schools
- Transition planning presentations in local high schools
CareerPrep

CareerPrep is a vocational preparation program at Gavilan College. The program prepares students with developmental disabilities for the world of work as well as with vocational and community training and independent living skills necessary to become successful, contributing community members. Practical job preparation and independent living skills are emphasized in a series of courses designed for individualized progress. Courses are staffed by professional, credentialed special education instructors assisted by skilled instructional assistants.

Who is Eligible?
This program is offered to the high school special education class graduate or equivalent who has a developmental disability and requests additional education and pre-vocational skills development necessary for job placement (or for entry level employment).

Who is a Developmentally Delayed Learner?
A student who exhibits below average intellectual functioning and a potential for measurable achievement in instructional or employment settings.

To receive an Award of Achievement, students must pass a series of required courses, included, but not limited to:

- Computer Education
- Interpersonal Skills Development
- Self Advocacy
- Job Readiness
- Community Integration
- Current Events
- Health Education
- Self-Directed
- Self-Support
WorkAbility III

Mission: To match students to jobs through educational planning and placement.

WorkAbility III (WAIII) is a cooperative partnership between Gavilan College and the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DOR). The purpose of the WAIII program at Gavilan College is to serve students who have an Individual Plan for Employment and are from the DOR San Jose District. The specialized services offered by WAIII are designed as pre-plan and in-plan services; they are not offered elsewhere on campus. DOR Counselors will make referrals to the WAIII program. The program provides job readiness training and job placement for individuals who receive services from the DOR. We strive to provide opportunities for students to reach for and obtain their highest occupational goals.

Eligibility Requirements:
- Department of Rehabilitation Consumer
- 18 years old or who otherwise qualifies by specific contractual arrangements

WorkAbility III strives to bridge gaps by working with DOR, DOR students, Disability Resource Center students, private and public employers and other non-profit service providers. DOR offices from the San Jose District have opportunities to utilize WAIII services for their clients. Occasionally, referrals may be received from DOR offices in Salinas and Monterey. WorkAbility III develops vocational plans to address the individual’s skills, abilities and interests while meeting the needs of local employers.

Employer Benefits:
- Access to screened and qualified applicants
- On-the-job support to assist with training needs
- Follow-up support services
- Employer tax credits

Services to be provided include:

Vocational Assessment
Upon receipt of written referral and medical documentation from DOR, WAIII will provide students with vocational assessment/career exploration services. Vocational assessments will assist students in understanding their own strengths and weaknesses in order to make an informed choice about meaningful career goals.
Employment Preparation Services
Individualized employment preparation is provided to each student. Guidance 530, Classroom Training in Job Readiness Skills, is offered to all students. Goals and objectives for the course include exploration of skills and abilities, interests, labor market projections, and disability issues, as they relate to career goal(s) for themselves and the steps they need to take in order to accomplish their goals. Students will have the opportunity to meet with the course instructor and DOR Counselor and be able to identify potential occupational choices that can be used for individualized employment plan development.

Job Placement and Job Placement Services
The Job Developer will individualize the job search process and identify appropriate employment opportunities based on the student’s strengths and needs. These services may include assistance in preparing cover letters, tailored resumes and interview strategies. Opportunities for internships, part-time work or volunteer positions to increase work experience are also available.

Post Placement/Follow-Up Services
WAVII Vocational Specialist provides job-coaching services and assists students until no intervention is necessary for the student to perform the job task independently. The WAVII Vocational Specialist may also provide job retention services for the student who are employed. The WAVII Vocational Specialist will provide supervision and follow-up services for on-site training for the student in each of the communities served.

WorkAbility III develops vocational plans to address the individual’s skills, abilities and interests while meeting the needs of local employers.
Non-Discrimination
Gavilan College does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, disabled or veteran status in the provision of educational programs and services or the employment process, pursuant to Federal and State statutes and regulations pertaining to unlawful discrimination.

Disability Services
Students requiring special services or arrangements because of hearing, visual or other disability should contact their instructor, counselor, advisor, or the Disability Resource Center office.

Vocational English Skills
Limited English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in vocational education programs.

No Discriminacion
Gavilan <<College>> no discrimina ni por raza, sexo, color, religion, origen, nacional, edad, desventajo, ni el estado de veteran disabilidado en la provision de servicios y programas educacionales ni en el proceso de empleo, de acuerdo con los estatutos federales y estatales y las reglas acerca de la discriminacion ilegal.

Servicios para los Incapacitados
Los estudiantes que requieren servicios o arreglos especiales debido a incapacidades auditivas, visuales o algun otra incapacidad deberan contactar a su instructor, consejero, asesor o a la oficina de Centro de Recurso de Invalidez.

Destrezas en Ingles para la Educacion Vocacional
La poca destrezas en ingles no sera barrera a la admission y a la participacion en programas de educacion.