

Academic Student Connections – ADA Policies and Academic Support

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Introduction

It is very beneficial for students to read the most current pamphlet prepared by the Academic Student Connections (ASC) at Spring Arbor University to become more familiar with the services offered to students.

During the regular University terms (fall, interim, and spring), the Academic Student Connections staff is available and encourages referrals of students who may need writing assistance (planning, development, editing or proofreading), support in a course in terms of a tutor or study group, or consultation regarding study challenges. Education students may need support study groups for course support, or may seek to become the tutor or facilitator of a group.

The Academic Student Connections does not test/diagnose students formally. However, the ASC personnel discuss challenges of students and in some cases refer them to appropriate areas for diagnosis.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Academic Student Connections is responsible for working with eligible students both on campus and at the various SAU sites in **determining the academic accommodations** as outlined by the ADA and **Section #504 legislation**. It is Spring Arbor University's intention to be non-discriminatory and attempt to remove as many barriers as possible. **If a student with proper professional documentation requests accommodations at SAU**, he/she will receive a VISA (Verified Individualized Services and Accommodations letter) from the ASC for each of their courses. The student will make an appointment with the professor to discuss needed accommodations and make arrangements for accommodations outlined in the VISA, prior to or during the first week of class.

Any time during the semester students may identify themselves as needing accommodations and go through the process with the ASC; they will then bring the VISA and ask for an interview. The Professors are only responsible for providing the accommodations AFTER they have been notified. Professors should not suggest a student is disabled or needs accommodations as a result of his/her performance. If a student asks, he/she should be directed to the ASC to follow the procedure.

In contrast to the very proactive approach required of schools under the IDEA, under the ADA and Section 504, disabled students must inform the institution of their disability in order for accommodations to be provided.

The Section 504 grievance procedure, which pertains to how disability discrimination grievances will be handled by the University, is posted on the University's website and is contained in the employee handbook and the student handbook, which are also available online. A copy of the grievance procedure can also be obtained from the Section 504 Grievance Administrator, by calling 517/750-6479, or by visiting the University's Human Resources Office on campus.

Michigan Basic Skills Test

The teacher testing required by Michigan often presents challenges for those preparing for the profession. As students in EDU 100 and 200 level courses are preparing to take the Michigan Basic Skills Test, the Academic Student Connections offers review sessions focusing primarily on the math sections. Students preparing for Subject Area tests should check with professors in their major and minor areas for extra help. Copies of the objectives should be available in the Spring Arbor University library.

The Spring Arbor University, Academic Student Connections is located in the basement of the Student Center located northwest of the clock tower. Call Barb Coleman @517 750-6481 (or ext. 1481 on campus) or Willie Lewis @ 517 750-6479 (or ext. 1479 on campus.)