WHAT IS DISABILITY?

Do I have a Disability?
Are you diagnosed with a difficult medical, physical, sensory, psychological, or cognitive issue that substantially impacts your college education? If so, you may be eligible for academic accommodations through the Ability Services Office. You are not required to have had academic accommodations in high school to receive supports. Any student with a disability who supplies supporting documentation that outlines their need for academic accommodations based on their disability is eligible.

Disability?
Under Section 504 of the ADA, disability is defined as a physical, or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such impairment, or is regarded as having an impairment.

Major Life Activities?
Examples of major life activities include: caring for one’s self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, standing, sitting, lifting, sleeping, speaking, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and interacting with others.

Record of Impairment?
Documentation is required for a student to receive academic accommodations from an appropriate evaluator. Each disability category has slightly different requirements in regards to who should complete the required documentation.

In general the documentation should meet these requirements:
• Be recent and comprehensive
• Demonstrate a substantial impairment to one or more major life activities
• Describe the specific accommodations necessary for the student as a result of their disability
• Completed by licensed clinical professional familiar with the impairment/condition

Ineligible Students?
• Students who do not provide appropriate documentation that outlines the student’s functional limitations and need for academic accommodations based on their diagnosis.
• If a student’s condition does not substantially impair one or more major life activities, it would be determined that the individual does not have a disability. This also results in the student not being eligible for accommodations.