# **Services for Students with Disabilities – SSD**

two fingers positioned over a page in Braillefemale student sitting at desk taking notes in class

male student wearing a Virginia Tech sweatshirt, sitting in a wheelchairsign language interpreter signing

Figure /4 pictures clockwise, female student sitting at desk taking notes in a classroom, sign language interpreter signing, male student wearing a Virginia Tech sweatshirt, sitting in a wheelchair, two fingers positioned over a page of braille

Virginia Tech, Division of Student Affairs

Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) exists to assist the Division of Student Affairs and Virginia Tech with advancing their missions, and with protecting students’ civil rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

SSD welcomes the opportunity to meet with students individually to problem solve personal and environmental issues that may interfere with full access to academics and/or hinder academic performance.

SSD evaluates the presence and impact of a disability and grants appropriate and reasonable accommodations to qualified students.

SSD links students with additional resources, both on and off-campus.

Photo of Lavery Hall, the home of the Virginia Tech Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office

Figure /Photo of Lavery Hall, the home of the Virginia Tech Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office

## **Services Offered**

* Academic coaching
* Assistive technology
* Classroom accommodations
* Classroom accessibility
* Confidential consultations
* Outreach, education, and advocacy
* Sign language interpreters
* Speech-to-text captioning
* Special housing accommodations

All services are confidential and free of charge.

## **Teacher and student sitting side by side at a desk discussing the textbook laid out on the table**

Figure / Teacher and student sitting side by side at a desk discussing the textbook laid out on the table..

## **SSD Serves**

* Virginia Tech’s Blacksburg and extended campuses
* Undergraduate, graduate, and VetMed students
* Distance and online learners
* International students
* Student veterans
* Students with temporary medical conditions

Teacher and student sitting at a desk discussing textbook material

Figure 4/ Teacher and student sitting at a desk discussing textbook material

## **Disabilities Served**

* Attention deficit disorders
* Autism/Asperger’s disorder
* Chronic illness
* Deaf and hard of hearing
* Learning disabilities
* Medical/physical disabilities
* Mobility impairments
* Psychological disorders
* Speech disorders
* Traumatic brain injury
* Vision impairments

Student at a desk taking notes

Figure /Student at a desk taking notes

## **FAQ**

### **What is a disability?**

An individual is considered to have a “disability” if s/he has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity, has a record of such an impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as Amended in 2008.

### **How does a student access accommodations and services through SSD?**

Accommodations and services are determined on an individual basis. First, a student contacts the SSD office to schedule an appointment to discuss his or her concerns and what information or documentation should be provided. After reviewing this documentation, the SSD staff will schedule a follow-up consultation to determine possible accommodations and next steps.

### **I think I might have a disability. What should I do?**

It’s never too late! Think back to elementary, middle, and high school. Did you struggle with math, reading, or focusing? 50 percent of students registered with SSD began receiving services as upper classmen or graduate students after they recognized that their academic performance did not reflect their aptitude and effort. If you think this describes you, call SSD at 540-231-3788 and schedule a confidential consultation with an SSD staff coordinator. We can help you identify the next steps you need to take, either through SSD, another university department, or an outside service provider.

For more information, please see our website:

www.ssd.vt.edu

## **Contact Information**

Services for Students with Disabilities (0185)

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Blacksburg, VA 24061

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