Working with Individuals with Disabilities
(Chaffey College DPS currently serves approximately 2,200 students)

*Individuals who are blind, have low vision, or other visual issues*

During the initial meeting with the individual determine what their access needs are (audio, braille, enlargements, contrast, etc…) and provide them with any accessible material needed. Materials that need to be converted into these accessible formats can be done by Jason Schneck (Alt Media Specialist) and can be reached at 909-652-6393.

- When addressing an individual who is blind or visually impaired, speak in a normal tone of voice. You’ll want to identify yourself to them when approaching and let them know when you’re leaving.
- If the individual has extremely low vision or is blind, consistent personnel and verbal communication with increase likelihood of success.
- Be prepared to make detailed verbal descriptions of materials being used in your lab or work area.
- It’s helpful to the person who is blind or visually impaired if you describe the surroundings, whether it is something interesting on a bulletin board, an activity that’s going on nearby, or the layout of an unfamiliar room.
- Blind or low visions individuals also benefit from working in areas that have reduced noise or activity to lower distractions.
- It’s easy to want to rush to the aid of visually impaired individuals. Try to resist this urge to “overdo” being helpful. While it may take them a little longer than other people to solve a problem or locate a dropped item, it’s an important step for them in learning independence and self-sufficiency.
- Make sure the room is safe for them to safely maneuver around independently. Make sure there are no obstructions the person can trip over or obstacles they can hit their head or body with.
- Treat any blind or visually impaired individuals as you would other people. They usually do the same things as you, but sometimes use different techniques.