LRS 523 - Basic Learning Skills Laboratory

Course Description: This course will provide support for students with identified learning disabilities in completing assignments and accessing information from any college course. Students will be able to identify and understand their learning disability and the appropriate accommodations needed in class for success. Students will be provided the opportunity to learn and adopt successful learning and study strategies to be successful in college level course work and to transfer skills to the work environment. Students will have the opportunity to learn and apply assistive technology and adaptive computer strategies in college courses. This is not a tutorial program.

Assignments

Writing Assignment -

Writing assignments are defined by what students bring to the lab from other courses. This may include, rewriting lecture notes, time management schedules, use of note taking techniques for textbooks, test preparation and review, computer assisted writing. In addition, students may be asked to write short summaries of their projected goals of the lab, progress towards their goals of the lab, and completion of their goals.

Assignments -

Assignments related to software handling may be included. This may require loading of software, navigating software, and producing assignments with the use of the software.

Reading Assignment -
Reading assignments may include the readings assigned from other courses. In addition, students may have readings from lab resource books, manuals, tutorials, teacher created handouts and assignments.

Outside Assignments -

Instructor may recommend students attend Writing Workshops or other college workshops based on the needs of the student.

Course Objectives:

- Describe own disability and related learning needs and appropriate accommodations.
- Identify study and learning strategies that can assist in success in coursework.
- Evaluate and apply assistive computer technologies and adaptive computer strategies that will improve success.

CSLOs:

- Discuss their own specific learning disability and identify appropriate accommodations for their course work of study.
- Utilize several learning and study strategies that increase success in their course work of study
- Incorporate appropriate assistive computer technologies in course work of study.

Course Outline

The following topics may be emphasized based on the student's individual needs for success in other college courses.

Learning Disabilities and Accommodations

- review LD testing results
  - current college assessment
  - current outside assessment
  - previous college or outside assessments
- interpret testing scores and implications for success
  - standard, scaled and percentile scores

- normal bell curve
- ==Review and interpreting scores in relation to the student's primary language, racial and ethnic background==
- California community college criteria for Learning Disabled
- review specific learning disabilities characteristics
  - auditory processing
  - visual processing
  - memory
  - attention/concentration
  - processing speed
- review appropriate college accommodations for Learning disabilities
  - extra time on tests
  - testing in distraction reduced setting
  - use of tape recorder
  - use of scribe
  - use of reader
  - enlarged print
  - use of etext, audio files
- determine own appropriate accommodations
  - matching documented learning disability with college approved accommodations, ==with attention to student's specific experience in educational settings==
- develop communication skills to discuss accommodations with college counselors and instructors
  - completion of appropriate paperwork
  - develop strategies for discussing course objectives/syllabus with accommodations.

Learning and Study Strategies

- assess learning and study strategies
  - modality quiz
  - modality strategies in relation to math and language courses
  - ==Impact of culture and personal educational history on chosen strategies==

- review all learning and study strategies and determine appropriateness for current courses
  - visual strategies
  - auditory strategies
  - kinesthetic strategies
- develop goals and time management system for current semester
  - short term goals
  - long term goals
  - use of paper or electronic calendar
  - daily, weekly and semester calendars
- apply test taking strategies for course work
  - essay
  - multiple choice
  - true/false
  - short answer
  - matching

Adaptive Computer/Assistive Technology

- identify access technology appropriate to disability with attention to student's specific experience in educational settings
  - meeting in timely manner with DRC counselor or staff person
  - discuss technology options in relation to disability
  - requesting specialized technology in timely manner
- use technology in relation to other college courses
  - loading of software
  - start up and finishing procedures
  - trouble shooting software issues
  - ability to use all technology independently

Lab Outline

Lab content includes instructor assessment of individual needs; active reading of classroom resource books, handouts, and manuals; demonstration of software; specific instruction on software; discussion of a variety of learning strategies; research of possible accommodations appropriate for specific learning disabilities