How do I access services?

1. Meet with us and let us know about your plans and educational goals.

2. Provide us with current documentation of your disability. Minimally, the documentation should:
   - Name and describe your disability;
   - Include a description of how it impacts your learning;
   - Identify accommodations you received in the past;
   - Make recommendations for current accommodations;
   - and be completed by a licensed or otherwise properly credentialed professional.

3. If you’re new to the college, please allow us enough time to obtain and review your records so that we may recommend the most effective, academic accommodations for you.

4. Work as a partner with us to make the most of your experience at BCC.

Pamela Farron
Coordinator
Disability Resource Center

Contact:
Phone: (413) 236-1608
Email: pfarron@berkshirecc.edu

Office Hours:
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location:
Berkshire Community College
Susan B. Anthony Building, Room 121
1350 West Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201

www.berkshirecc.edu/drc

Berkshire Community College is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, genetic information, maternity leave, military service and national origin in its educational programs or employment pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 151B and 151C, Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Americans with Disabilities Act, and regulations promulgated thereunder, 34 C.F.R. Part 100 (Title VI), Part 106 (Title IX) and Part 104 (Section 504).

All inquiries concerning application of the above should be directed to the Director of Human Resources and Affirmative Action Officer, and Coordinator of Title IX and Section 504, located in the Susan B. Anthony Annex (A-21) at 413-236-1022. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Community Colleges’ Affirmative Action Plan, which is available in the Human Resources Office, contains a full explanation of this specific policy. Available in alternative format upon request.
What is the philosophy of the Disability Resource Center?

Our program is based on the philosophy of self-empowerment. We strive to provide a supportive atmosphere that encourages and promotes self-reliance. Our goal is to help you maximize your potential for academic success by coordinating your needs with the resources and support services available at BCC. Although you may have a disability, you are expected to meet the same academic and behavioral standards as your non-disabled peers, but we will help you “pave the way.”

Am I required to work with the Disability Resource Center?

Consistent with our philosophy of self-empowerment, your participation in our program is entirely up to you. We trust that as a knowledgeable consumer, you’ll investigate what we have to offer and make an informed decision that is best for you. Whatever you choose, our services are completely confidential.

What services do we offer?

- Individual orientation to familiarize you with the campus
- Pre-admission counseling to get you on track with the right programs and services
- Assistance with registration to make sure you’re in the right class
- Assistance in obtaining note takers for class lectures
- Taping and reading assistance for exams
- Help in acquiring your textbooks in an alternative format
- Extended testing time
- Sign Language Interpreter services
- Liaison with faculty and campus offices, to help “pave the way” to college success
- Evaluation and training in the use of assistive technology

Hannah Graether ’11

Hannah was a student with a learning disability who attended BCC. She earned her Associate’s Degree in Early Childhood Education here, and went on to earn her Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental Biology from Cazenovia College. Hannah then earned her Masters of Education with a focus on curriculum and instruction at the University of Washington. Her ability to go from a part-time student with a learning disability at BCC to a full time student earning her Master’s Degree is due, in part, to the support Hannah received at BCC from TRIO and the Disability Resource Center.

For more about Hannah’s story go to www.berkshirecc.edu/spotlight