

Equal Employment for Individuals with Disabilities Guidelines

Policy # 22.002, December 3, 2010

Policy Details

- It is a violation of College policy to discriminate in employment against a qualified person in regard to any employment practice or term, condition, or privilege of employment because that person currently has a disability, at one time had a disability, or is regarded as having a disability. It is also a violation of this policy to deny an employment opportunity or benefit or otherwise discrimination against an individual, whether or not the individual has a disability, because that individual has a known relationship or association with a person who has a disability. This prohibition applies to job application procedures, hiring, advancement, and discharge of employees; employee compensation; job training; and all other terms and conditions of employment.
- It is College policy to determine essential job functions based on an individualized inquiry into each position filled and to determine whether the person with a disability can perform these functions unaided or with reasonable accommodation.
- It is against College policy to use qualification standards or selection criteria that would screen out, or tend to screen out, individuals with disabilities, unless such measures are both job related and necessary to the safe and efficient operation of the College.
- The affirmative obligation to provide reasonable accommodation applies to individuals seeking employment with the College and to current employees who become disabled while employed with the College.

Disability

A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of an individual or a record of such impairment of being regarded as having such an impairment. The impairment can be a disability even if episodic or in remission.



Qualified Individual with a Disability

An individual with a disability who, with or without reasonable accommodation, can perform essential functions of the employment position that such individual holds or desires.

Essential Job Functions

Those functions actually performed in the job, the removal of which would fundamentally alter the position. To determine whether a function is essential, it must be determined whether the position exists to perform that function and whether there are other employees available to share that function, as well as the degree of expertise required to perform the function. Whether a function is essential also depends on the content of the written job descriptions, the terms of the collective bargaining agreement, the time spent performing the particular function, and the consequences of failing to require the employee to perform the function.

Reasonable Accommodations

A modification or adjustment to a job, the work environment, or the way things are done that enables a qualified individual with a disability to perform essential job functions. Such accommodation is required unless it poses an undue hardship on the employer. The determination of what accommodation is reasonable in a particular situation involves a process in which the department and the employee identify the precise limitations imposed by the disability and explore potential accommodations that would overcome those limitations.

Undue Hardship

Any accommodation that is substantial or disruptive or would be unduly costly to the College or that would fundamentally alter the nature or operation of the department.

Major Life Activities

Include caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, sitting, standing, lifting, reaching, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, working, eating, sleeping, standing, lifting, bending, reading, concentrating, thinking, and communicating, as well as the operation of major bodily functions including but not limited to functions, of the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions. This list is not exhaustive.



Substantially Limits

An impairment is substantially limiting if it significantly restricts the duration, manner, or condition under which an individual can perform a particular major life activity as compared to the ability of the average person in the general population to perform that same major life activity. In these instances, the following factors will be considered: (1) the nature and severity of the impairment; (2) the duration or expected duration of the impairment; and (3) the permanent or long-term impact resulting from the impairment.