

## ASCCC Small Discussion Forum Summary: DSP&S: Classes & Services

**Date:** Friday, April 17, 2020, 2:00—3:00 PM, Session #1, first of three sessions

**Moderator:** Stephany Curry, Librarian; Reedley College, ASCCC Executive Board

**Co-Facilitators:** Julie Land, Learning Disabilities Specialist, El Camino College  
Lyn Clemons, Alternate Media Supervisor, El Camino College

Thank you to all of today's participants. The following is a brief summary of issues discussed, and in some cases, of recommendations made. Please note: the purpose of the Forums is to provide an opportunity for dialogue and support, not to mandate any type of policy. Any / all recommendations are intended as supportive suggestions, to be considered / evaluated, as appropriate, by the participants and by others reading this summary. After the last session, a PowerPoint will be created / posted to synthesize the results of all three sessions. Thanks again.

### **1. Flexibility needed in our approach to teaching and evaluation during the pandemic.**

**Challenge / Concern:** Different environment from the classroom! Siblings / other family are in proximity. Students share the one computer in their home with others or may have to use a cell phone. Students may not have a keyboard to produce written assignments or to respond to Canvas "fill-ins."

**Suggestions:** Be aware of privacy issues during class discussion on Zoom or similar formats. Consider allowing students to respond to test questions orally, such as by phone, Zoom, etc.

**2. Math Classes offered by DSP&S** **Note:** Some classes reflect specific content or Math level, such as Pre-Algebra; others are support classes which require concurrent enrollment in a Math course. These support lab classes often include one or more tutors who circulate to assist with math problems brought by the student. Other math-related courses from DP&S may focus on coping with math anxiety, test-taking strategies, etc.

**Challenge / Concern:** Need for more effective tools to use in the online teaching environment

**Suggestions:** Equatio (texthelp) <https://www.texthelp.com/en-us/products/equatio/>  
Free site licenses available during COVID 19. Equatio works in Canvas.

Use breakout rooms in Zoom for tutors to work with students.

**3. Significant differences in continuity of services at various locations of DSP&S.**

**Challenge / Concern:** Participants reported hearing that some locations of DSP&S were better prepared than others to transfer services to the online environment than others, particularly re: Testing Accommodations. (No specific campuses were named.)

**Suggestions:** Further exploration of this issue and possible outreach, as needed, towards greater uniformity of services so that students aren't placed in the position of having to "shop campuses" for needed services / accommodations.

**4. Incoming high school students**—possible impact of not having had their "graduation" and of not seeing the college and/or the DSP&S location

**Challenge / Concern:** Incoming high school students may not feel the same "closure" or "completion" of their high school role due to lack of graduation and other "senior events." By not seeing the college campus and the DSP&S location / personnel, students may not readily get the feeling, "I belong here; my needs as a student with a disability will be met here."

**Suggestions:** Recognize the impact of the above. Do what's possible, such as welcome videos, websites that are very user-friendly, individualized phone calls, etc.

**5. Learning Disabilities Assessment**

**Challenge / Concern:** Assessment is not possible at this time, due to legal/ logistical issues which make testing unsuited to the online environment. Some campuses plan to offer the Intake through a fillable form. Others may have the LD Specialist conduct the Intake through Zoom or Cranium Café. Concerns re: either/ both options include student privacy and inability for the LDS to see the student's own sentence structure, spelling, handwriting, etc.

**Suggestions:** Temporary accommodations, as appropriate, during COVID 19 pandemic, with notation of "anticipated semester" for Intake or LD Assessment. If the Intake is being done at this time, privacy must be discussed with the student, up front. A short, handwritten writing sample might be requested from the student (or from all the students in an assessment-related class).

**6. Overall suggestions from ASCCC:** Reach out to local Academic Senate, as needed, for support of the accommodations process on campus. Keep ASCCC in mind for Professional Development.