

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE
HANOVER · NEW HAMPSHIRE

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DEAN'S OFFICE

TO Al Richard
FROM Karen Pelz *Karen Pelz*
SUBJECT Services and Facilities for Handicapped Students

Ack. Rec.

File

It is rather difficult to anticipate all the needs handicapped students might have when one is not accustomed to working with the handicapped. Thus I suspect there will be some things that we have not anticipated. Nevertheless, here is my estimation of how the Reading and Study Skills Center is prepared in terms of this issue.

Blind and Deaf Students

I foresee no real problems for these students. All the materials we use in the workshops are available in both printed and oral form; the workshops are lectures and as such will be all right for blind students and for deaf students who can lip-read. For deaf students who cannot lip-read, it may be necessary to find a sign-language interpreter. To my certain knowledge, there is one class of '81 student who speaks sign language; there may also be others. We may, however, need to recruit in the community for sign-language interpreters and, of course, readers for the blind. It is possible that R&SS could assist with this process. Workshop materials which currently exist in only one form can easily be put onto tape for blind students or printed for deaf students; this is also true for other materials provided for students by the R&SS Center. Advance notice to us of blind or deaf students admitted to the College will aid us considerably in preparing such materials in time for student use.

Students who cannot climb stairs

Since the first floor of College Hall will be accessible to students in wheelchairs, and since the Hillel Lounge will apparently be available for conferences with such students, I foresee no difficulties in incorporating these students into existing programs. Again, advance notice will be helpful, since scheduling a workshop in a wheelchair-accessible classroom will require the assistance of the Registrar. Individual programs and the Tutor Clearinghouse should provide no problems.

Learning Disabled Students

Most students with serious learning disabilities are unlikely to meet Dartmouth's academic entrance requirements, but it is possible that an occasional seriously dyslexic student may have overcome this handicap sufficiently (as in the famous case of Nelson Rockefeller). No one in the Reading and Study Skills Center is trained to work with dyslexic students. However, most students who have achieved this level of education will have had their problem formerly diagnosed and treated by a reading specialist. If we can consult with that specialist by phone or letter, we can almost surely carry out whatever specific form of therapy is recommended. I have done this in the past, but some special arrangements are necessary.