

Project Assist

A specialized program for students with learning disabilities
Cumberland County College
P O Box 1500
Vineland, NJ 08362-1500
856-691-8600 Ext. 282/Ext. 445

GENERAL INFORMATION

Project Assist is a specialized program designed for students who have a primary diagnosis of a **Specific Learning Disability** and who have at least average intellectual ability and a strong desire to succeed in college. **Space is limited**, therefore each application is evaluated carefully to identify students whose needs best match the nature of support offered in Project Assist. All applicants must submit diagnostic materials that describe and support the Project Assist admission criteria. Diagnostic testing typically must be administered **within 3 years** of application and include:

- 1) Results of an individually administered comprehensive test of cognitive ability, adult version (WAIS III, Woodcock-Johnson Cognitive Battery, etc.) that includes both subtests scores and a narrative report. (note: the WASI, the Wechsler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence, is not accepted)
- 2) Achievement testing indicating current levels in reading (decoding and comprehension), math and written language.
- 3) An Individual Education Plan (IEP) or its equivalent if available

Steps for Application

- 1) Complete application for Cumberland County College and take the College placement test(Accuplacer).
- 2) Complete Project Assist Application and submit Psycho-educational assessments/IEP.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: What is the nature of the support offered by Project Assist?

A: Students must meet regularly (minimum of two to three times per semester) with the Project Assist director. An Individual Service Plan is developed and accommodations/supportive services are recommended/monitored.

Students are helped to understand their learning styles and based on that understanding, to develop and implement strategies in areas such as reading, writing, note-taking, time management, organization, and test-taking through a learning strategies course, summer orientation, and other workshops. Professional tutoring and assistive technology training are available. **Students enrolled in developmental courses are required to attend tutoring sessions.**

Q: What are the criteria for acceptance into Project Assist?

A: Project Assist admits students who are learning disabled, have **at least average intellectual ability** (85-115 FSIQ) and **who can understand and interact with college level material** (i.e., analyze and synthesize abstract concepts). Further, students **must be motivated** to participate as full partners in their learning (as revealed by attendance and commitment to Project Assist and other classes).

Q: Can I submit testing that is older than is specified by Project Assist?

A: Certain circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Generally, testing should be current so we know exactly what your ability and skill levels are at the time of entrance to college. We welcome older testing along with current testing, if available.

Q: My evaluations are older than three years or do not meet the criteria for acceptance into Project Assist or I have never been diagnosed with a Specific learning Disability but feel that I may have one? What do I do?

A: Public schools are sometimes willing to conduct the testing. This testing is also likely to be used for more than just one purpose in the student's future so it is worthwhile to have current testing, indicating adult ability levels, on hand. Registration with DVR may also allow you to have updated testing. Upon enrollment into Cumberland County College, Project Assist may be able to conduct testing if warranted.

Q: Does Project Assist provide support for students with ADHD/ADD, Traumatic Brain Injury, psychiatric disabilities, sensory or motor impairments, learning disabilities that do not meet admission criteria, Asperger's Syndrome, or other disabilities?

A: Project Assist is not designed to support students whose primary disabling condition is other than a Specific Learning Disability. Students who are accepted to Cumberland County College who have such conditions are eligible for reasonable accommodations as defined by the ADA

Q: Is an interview required?

A: Yes. You will be contacted to set up an interview if your application is being considered for Project Assist.

Q: If I am denied to Project Assist may I appeal the decision?

A: Yes. To do this you would submit a request in writing within 30 days after receiving notification of the decision. This request must be accompanied by new or additional information such as a letter of recommendation. Appeals not accompanied by new or additional information will not be considered.

Deadline for application: June 1st

Application for Project Assist

Name: _____ Date: _____ DOB: _____ Gender: M F

Street Address: _____ City, State Zip _____

County: _____ Phone 1: _____ Phone 2: _____

Social Security #: _____ College ID# _____ Major: _____

E-Mail: _____ High School/graduation date: _____

Ethnicity: white African American Hispanic Native American Asian Other

Veteran: Y N Financial Aid: Y N DVR: Y N EOF: Y N Student Support Services: Y N

Primary Disability: _____ Secondary Disability: _____

Other medical conditions: _____

Results of Placement Test: RD 94 RD100 No RDG EN93 EN100 EN101
 MA85 MA91 MA92 MA94 College level Math

To be completed **by the student**:

1. Please briefly describe your learning difficulties *in your own words*:

2. Explain in what ways your learning difficulties impact your work in school and your life outside of school?

3. What would you say are your learning strengths or other characteristics of yourself as a student that help you in the classroom environment? _____

4. What made you decide to come to college?

5. Are you willing to commit to attending a summer orientation, 3 credit Learning Strategies class (in place of the traditional Freshman Seminar), and weekly tutoring? Why or why not?

6. What kind of support and/or accommodations do you receive in your current or most recent school or what do you believe will help you to demonstrate what you know in college?

In class support Resource room self-contained extra time on tests note taker

testing in distraction free environment Tape record lectures spell checker calculator

tutoring books on CD tests read use of scribe personal aid

Please list any other accommodations/supports that you feel you would need: _____

7. In considering your application, please complete on a separate sheet of paper a personal statement with three paragraphs describing (1) your learning difficulties, (2) your greatest academic strengths, and (3) why you should be considered for the Project Assist Program.

Release of Information Statement

I hereby authorize the release of appropriate documents and information as deemed necessary by the Director of Project Assist to aid in the determination of my eligibility for Project Assist services.

Applicant signature _____ Date _____
(Parent signature if student is under 18)

Please submit all psycho-educational/diagnostic materials by mail or fax to:

Project Assist
Cumberland County College
3322 College Drive; PO Box 1500
Vineland, NJ 08362-1500
Fax: (856) 601-6483
Phone: (856) 691-8600 x282

