

NU ARC UPDATE

Neumann University John C. Ford Academic Resource Center

August 2016

This Month's Focus: Disabilities Services

Welcome to the ARC!

The John C. Ford Academic Resource Center (ARC), located on the ground floor of the Bachmann Main Building, is an innovative learning and resource center open to all Neumann students.

The ARC is staffed by professionals who provide a wide range of services, including peer and professional tutoring, organized study groups, study skills workshops, academic counseling, and academic coaching. The ARC also includes Program for Success, the TRiO/SSS Program, the Disabilities Services Office, placement testing, and SMARTHINKING—an online tutoring service.

“Receiving help in the ARC did not create in me someone who used their difficulties as an excuse, but rather finally had the time, space, and tools to learn through my difficulties.”

-2016 Neumann U graduate

Individualized peer tutoring session in the ARC.



Good News!

The ARC is now able to provide students and tutors with more space for learning and assessment. Thanks to University-wide support, the former NU TV studio was renovated during the summer as a tutoring and small group study area.

This expansion allows students who are testing in the original ARC area to have a more distraction-reduced environment, while permitting small group tutoring and group supplementary instruction to take place in the expanded ARC.

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NOTE TO INSTRUCTORS:

The ARC director/staff are willing to come to your class to talk to students about our services. **Call us !**

What is a Disability?

The legal definition of a disability is “a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities, a record of such an impairment or being regarded as having such an impairment.” (ADA, [42 U.S.C 126 §12102](#))

As of the 2008 Amendments to the ADA, major life activities include: caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, **learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating** and working.

The law prohibits consideration of mitigating measures such as medication, assistive technology, accommodations, or modifications when determining whether an impairment substantially limits a major life activity. The related text of the ADAAA explicitly rejects the Supreme Court’s holdings that mitigating measures must be considered in determining whether an impairment constitutes a disability under the law.

The ADAAA also provides that impairments that are episodic or in remission must be assessed according to their active state.



Group Tutoring Session in the ARC “Smart” Room.

Focus on Disabilities Services:

Why Accommodate Students with Documented Disabilities?

The first reason we provide classroom and testing accommodations to students with documented disabilities is because it is mandated by federal and state law.

In compliance with the Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 As Amended (2007), and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 As Amended (1974, 1978, 1998, 1998), Neumann University is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities, to enable access to programs and services that is equal to the access provided to students who do not have such disabilities. For information on the law, go to the Office of Civil Rights web site: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html>

Another very important reason that we provide accommodations to students with documented disabilities is that this contributes to the fulfillment of Neumann University’s mission and values statement as a Catholic Franciscan University. Saints Francis of Assisi and Bishop John Neumann reached out to the marginalized members of their societies, and Neumann University recognizes this spirit in its mission and values. Students with disabilities contribute to the diversity of our community of learners, and they learn and illuminate our core values of reverence, integrity, service, excellence, and stewardship.



Video-monitored ARC testing rooms

Focus on Disabilities Services:

What Are Accommodations ?

There are two types of academic accommodations at Neumann: testing accommodations and classroom accommodations.

Testing Accommodations

Testing accommodations depend on the nature of the specific disabilities involved. They may include a distraction-reduced testing environment; added time for tests (typically 150% or, rarely, 200% of regular testing time); a reader for tests; a scribe for tests, use of a computer to write tests; the use of JAWS or other software to read tests in electronic format; the nonuse of Scantron answer sheets; the “chunking” of longer tests into smaller, more manageable segments with breaks in between; the use of a magnifier; or alternative testing formats approved by the instructor, such as those testing recognition rather than recall.

Classroom Accommodations

Classroom accommodations also depend on the nature of the disability. They include, but are not limited to, seating near the instructor; notes (sometimes in advance of classes or tests) or a note taker; use of a computer for notetaking; the use of an audio recorder such as an Echo smart pen, i-Phone, or cassette transcriber; brief breaks from class for medical reasons; electronic or other alternate format textbooks used with text-to-speech software such as Natural Reader or JAWS; the use of a calculator for computations; the use of a spell checker; high-contrast monitor adjustment for computers; enlarged or magnified monitor adjustment; closed captioned classroom videos or movies; CART services; instructor-worn lavalier microphone used in a wireless system such as one with an FM receiver; sign-language interpreters; searchable (text-readable) PDFs in Neumann Learn; course websites tagged with alt text; audio-described classroom videos or movies; and service animals.

For more information on disAbilities Services at Neumann University, go to: www.neumann.edu/academics/ARC/disAbilities.asp

Where Can I Talk with Students about Their Disabilities?

This is a discussion for the privacy of your office, or at least away from other persons. Faculty and staff should only discuss a student's disability in confidence. It is extremely embarrassing and hurtful to students when people that they trust and hold in a position of authority discuss disabilities, accommodations, or other protected and confidential information publicly, in front of a student with disabilities and her or his classmates.

It is a violation of federal confidentiality laws, such as FERPA and HIPAA regulations, to discuss a student's disability in public. It also disregards NU's core value of reverence.



ARC TutorTrac computers for reservations

What's “Universal Design”?

Universal Design, in both architecture and education, promotes an expanded view of making products and environments useful to people with a range of characteristics, such as race, gender, age, ability/disability, and learning style.

Some principles include equitable use, flexibility in use, simplicity of use, perceptible information, tolerance for error, and low physical effort. A door ramp helps everyone, not just persons with disabilities. A well-designed web site is accessible to everyone, not just hearing persons, sighted persons, or other “neurotypicals.” Go to www.washington.edu/doit/about/overview for more information.

Program for Success

Program for Success (PFS) is an academic support program designed to help students at Neumann University improve their GPAs. This unique program offers individualized assistance to invited students who need help meeting their academic goals. Invited students include students on academic probation, students with learning differences, and students referred by faculty members. In the systematic and holistic approach of PFS, students learn how to utilize their time and strengths to their fullest potential.

Weekly or bi-weekly academic coaching is the key focus of PFS. Some of the skills areas include utilization of learning styles, active strategic reading, lecture and textbook note taking, test preparation, and referral to other supports.

Program for Success assists students in developing personal goal setting, self-motivation, time management, academic stress management, self advocacy, and presentation of a positive academic demeanor.

Consistent meetings with a PFS advisor are statistically proven effective in raising a student's GPA and achieving good academic standing.

For more information on this program, go to our web page at www.neumann.edu/academics/ARC/PFS/default.asp

TRiO/SSS Program

The TRiO/Student Support Services Program is a federally funded academic support program that helps accepted students progress each semester, develop academically and personally, graduate, and achieve success.

Some of the benefits of the program include one-on-one academic counseling; the possibility of earning grant aid; financial aid and financial literacy counseling; individual, reserved tutoring; career and internship counseling; assistance with resume and interview preparation; and graduate and professional school counseling.

Eligibility requirements follow the federal guidelines for TRiO/SSS programs at www2.ed.gov/programs/triostudsupp/eligibility.html

For more information on Neumann University's TRiO Program, go to www.neumann.edu/academics/TRIO/default.asp

Live the Truth in Love

Keep Track of Tutoring with TutorTrac

Neumann University offers tutoring in a variety of subject areas, particularly those related to the Neumann core courses. Both professional and peer tutors are available to assist students who feel they can benefit from help.

Instead of coming to the ARC, NU students can sign up for tutoring or check their appointments remotely, from their dorm or home, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

For more information, and for student sign ups, visit the NU ARC web page at www.neumann.edu/academics/ARC/tutoring/default.asp

Contact Us !!!

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Visit us on the web at:
[www.neumann.edu/academics/
ARC/default.asp](http://www.neumann.edu/academics/ARC/default.asp)

Think Smart: Use SMARTHINKING

SMARTHINKING is a 24/7 online tutoring service that Neumann University makes available to its students. Through this service, students can receive tutoring in a variety of subjects, some of which are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Some subjects include algebra, statistics, pre-calculus, calculus, writing, chemistry, biology, physics, economics, accounting, and Spanish

For more information, and to access SMARTHINKING's Faculty Handbook, go to the ARC web page at www.neumann.edu/academics/ARC/smarthinking.asp

NU
RISES
on its Core Values