What is FIT-ABLE?

The Office of Disability Services, FIT-ABLE, is a confidential support service for FIT students who elect to self-disclose, seeking reasonable academic adjustments, accommodations, and auxiliary services which establish a level playing field for participation, free of discrimination. FIT-ABLE opened in 1999 in response to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, federal civil rights legislation.

Liz  Holly Mortensen, Coordinator
Disability Services & A.D.A.
Students we serve

FIT-ABLE works with students who have

- Learning disabilities
- Physical/mobility disabilities
- Visual impairments
- Hearing impairments
- Psychiatric disabilities
- Chronic illnesses (HIV/AIDS, Crohn’s Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Diabetes, Lyme Disease, etc.)
- Substance abuse/recovery

Both Section 504 & the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 define a disability as “any physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities”.

The effects of each student’s disability is personal; blanket assumptions should not be made.

The Fashion Institute of Technology is firmly committed to eliminating discrimination based upon disability, increasing access to education for all qualified students. Students with disabilities must meet the same academic and technical standards as other students within their major. There is no special admissions procedure for a student with a disability.

Adaptive equipment, auxiliary aids, American Sign Language interpreters, exam readers, scribes, calculators, text-to-speech software, and other types of assistive technology is available for use by students once a student has registered with the Office of Disability Services.

FIT seeks the full cooperation of faculty, staff and administration in the provision of accommodations and auxiliary aids, and services that it has determined to be reasonable and necessary. This cooperation is not considered to be optional.

Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973

“No otherwise qualified disabled individual...shall, solely by reason of...disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”

How Faculty Can Assist

Faculty, full-time and adjunct, should make an in-class announcement and/or include syllabus statement such as the following:

“Students with disabilities who will be taking this course and may need disability-related classroom accommodations are encouraged to make an appointment to see me as soon as possible. Also, please stop by the Office of Disability Services in Room A570 to register for support services. You should also know the College has a Counseling Center in Room A212B. Both offices maintain strict confidentiality.”

Work with the Office of Disability Services who can assist you. Maintain all contact with students as confidential.