

# STUDENT COUNSELING CENTER & DISABILITY SERVICES

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## Contact Information

**Director:** Douglas L. Steele, MA **E-mail:** dlsteele@lcsc.edu **Office:** RCH 111 **Phone:** 208-792-2211 **FAX:** 208-792-2453 **Web:** <http://www.lcsc.edu/student-counseling> and <http://www.lcsc.edu/disability-services> **Office Hours** Monday thru Friday 8:00 - 5:00 **Summer Hours** Monday thru Thursday 8:00 - 5:00, Friday 8:00 - 12:00

## Overview

Two separate and unique student service functions exist within the Student Counseling Center (SCC) and Disability Services (DS) office. While SCC focuses on improvement in the emotional, psychological and relational well-being of our students, DS works with students who present with a documented physical, cognitive, sensory and/or psychological disability to provide reasonable accommodations and/or course adjustments for these students.

## Counseling Services

The counseling office provides short-term developmental and preventive assistance for both full and part-time students at LCSC. At any age, adjustment to college represents a major life transition and counseling is a learning process that assists students in taking responsibility for their lives and education. SCC professional counselors are available to assist students with a variety of personal and mental health issues which may impede academic progress and personal growth. SCC provides services to individuals and couples and also provides time limited, topic focused groups at times, based on need and/or interest. Substance abuse screening and assessment services are also provided and referral to community treatment providers occurs as warranted. SCC also responds to students in crisis situations and facilitates referral to other campus and/or community medical/behavioral health providers as needed. All information discussed with counselors is kept confidential. The department adheres to Idaho state law governing counselors and counseling services and to the American Counseling Association code of ethics.

## Disability Services

Disability Services (DS) was created to establish a campus environment that is accessible and inclusive to students with disabilities. Students who self identify to the DS office will meet with a DS counselor to assess the nature of their disability and how it interferes with the students ability to succeed in the educational process. During this meeting qualified individuals will also discuss with the counselor, the nature of the disability and what possible course adjustments or other accommodations are necessary for the student to succeed in his or her courses and to have optimal accessibility to campus resources and services. Some of the specific course adjustments or accommodations available include, but are not limited to, physical accessibility accommodation, academic adjustments, auxiliary aids, audio textbooks, and assistance with note-taking, readers and sign language interpreters. Any documentation related to the nature of the disability and to any past accommodations that the student received in previous academic or work related settings is also useful for this process to assure that the student receives the best services possible. This information should be presented to the disability services worker if available during or before the first meeting. At times additional documentation may be requested in order to make a final determination of whether a student qualifies for services and/or to complete the accommodation process for the student. In all cases, reasonable accommodations and course adjustments will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Students are strongly encouraged to notify the DS office before arrival on campus to make an appointment to discuss documentation and our services. All information is kept confidential unless a release of information is signed by the student in compliance with FERPA (Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act) guidelines

## Confidentiality

All student information is confidential under FERPA. Additional Idaho and federal law governs the release of student counseling service records and outlines various exceptions to confidentiality. Generally, the student must provide written permission to SCC/DS staff authorizing release of information to anyone other than those professionals directly involved in the plan of care, except for various, limited exceptions as allowed by law.