

“About Me” for CCAC

Mark Steidl , student

This document is to be read by my professors in order to ensure that they can better understand how to accommodate my needs in class. If questions arise, please contact me at [REDACTED]@acd.ccac.edu

About Me For CCAC

Steidl 1

About Me For CCAC

My name is Mark Steidl, and I am working on an associate's degree in Social Work Foundations at CCAC. I use a wheelchair and Dynavox communication device to talk because I have cerebral palsy, which means that I have a damaged connection between my brain and my muscles. I operate my Dynavox communication device with the two switches that are positioned at either side of my head. Please feel free to look at my screen at any time.

Since I am unable to use my hands to hold a book or paper, all reading material (including tests and quizzes) must be in a digital format so I can read it on my computer. Please let me know what will be the best way to get class materials to me (including syllabus) in digital format. If this class uses Blackboard to store course documents, please do not email me the syllabus before the first day of the semester.

When I have an essay or speech to write or a test to take, I use my communication device as a word processor, which takes longer than it would for someone using a keyboard or writing with their hand. Therefore, I need extra time for assignments and tests.

I have a note taker/aide that comes to class with me. Her name is . takes notes for me, acts as a scribe for the items I write on my communication device, and knows how my Dynavox communication device works in case there are any problems. My note taker/aide also attends to my medical needs. Please talk to me, not my note taker/aide.

My Supportive Services-approved accommodations for CCAC classes are as follows:

About Me For CCAC

Steidl 2

- **Extended time testing (time and a half)**
- **Low distraction exams**
- **Computer-assisted exams**
- **Scribe for exams**
- **Note taker/aide for medical needs**
- **Emergency evacuation procedures**

It is somewhat difficult for me to participate in a class discussion because I use a communication device, but it is not impossible. Here are some strategies that teachers can use to include a communication device user like myself in class discussions and group work:

- **Ask me the question in advance and tell me you will get back to me.**
- **Asking me to give a yes/no answer**
- **Asking me to give a one or two word response that reflects my basic idea or opinion.**

The teacher then expands upon that idea.

Outside of class, it is very effective for me to communicate with my professors via email.

My email address is mstei76@acd.ccac.edu