



Reading Services Guidelines

Eligibility

- Students with a documented disability of Blindness or Visual impairment.
- Documentation on file with the Office of AccessABILITY (OA) must clearly state the need for this service.

Student Responsibilities

- Reading service request forms should be **completed immediately** after registering for a course and are due no later than **two weeks** prior to the start of the semester. Please have in mind the days and times that you would want to schedule your reading sessions when filling out the Request for Services Form.
- The OA provides two hours of reading per week for each course. Depending on the course content, students may request additional reading time to be approved by the office. However, the use of other sources beyond a reader is necessary and must be utilized.
- All reading sessions must take place **ON CAMPUS** locations only. The use of the library study rooms or the Access Center is recommended.

Schedule Changes

- If a student drops a course or withdraws from a course.
- If a student adds a course in the first three weeks of a term, he/she will be expected to use alternative reading methods, (see section on other reading sources), until the OA locates and assigns a reader.

Absence

- Readers will remain at the reading location for 15 minutes. If after this lapse of time the student has not arrived, the reader will leave and report the absence to the OA.
- If a student knows that he/she is going to be absent from a reading session, he/she must notify the OA at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled reading time.

- Three absences without proper notification and medical documentation will result in the termination of services.

Materials to be Read

- Readers will read the student whatever course-related material the student requests within the two hours a week time-frame.
- However, we advise that the student acquire their textbooks on tape in order to maximize the use of their reading services. (Please see the section on other reading sources).

Time Sheets

- Students must initial readers' time sheets at every reading session as well as sign the time sheets every two weeks.

Contact with Reader and the OA

- Students and readers should exchange emails and phone numbers so that they may reach each other directly if needed.
- Students should reserve a room in the library for reading sessions and inform the OA of the location and times.
- Please contact the Coordinator of Class Accommodations, by phone (212) 772-4883, or stop by E1129:
 - If a student has concerns regarding reading
 - If a Reader is late
 - If a Reader is absent

OTHER READING SOURCES

To accomplish all of the reading required of a college course, the use of other resources beyond a reader is necessary. These other methods include volunteer readers of the Lighthouse for the Blind, books on tape, and use of the Reading Edge machine and other screen reading software available in the Hunter College Access Center.

Volunteer Readers

For VOLUNTEER READERS, contact the Lighthouse for the Blind.

Lighthouse for the Blind

East 59th Street (between Lexington and Park)

New York, New York

212-821-9200

www.lighthouse.org

Books on Tape

- In order to make the necessary arrangements for books on tape, students should first inquire about the texts required for courses. This information may be obtained from academic departments and the Hunter College Bookstore.
- Students should begin this process as soon as they have registered for courses to ensure that the tapes arrive in a timely manner.
- For TEXTBOOKS on tape, students should contact the Recording for the Blind and Visually Handicapped

Recording for the Blind and Visually Handicapped
545 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1005
New York, New York
212-557-5720
www.rfbd.org

- For NON TEXTBOOKS on tape or in Braille, students should contact the Andrew Heiskell Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.
40 West 20th Street
New York, New York
212-206-5400
www.talkingbook.nypl.org

Chapter 219 of the Laws of 2003 provides all students with print disability, accessibility to Alternate Text Format through publishing companies. For more information regarding how to benefit from this service please contact the Access Center @ 212-650-3985 in room TH 205.

Reading & Scanning Software

The Access & Technology Center located in TH 205, has various scanning and reading software as well as CCTV's. Please contact the center for further details at 212-772-5478.

Please sign the Student Agreement form and return it to the Coordinator of Class Accommodations with your Request for Services Form. Scheduling of your reading services cannot begin unless both of these forms are submitted.