

## Testing Accommodations

Students with disabilities needing testing accommodations for placement exams or other standardized tests must submit requests for accommodations to the Office of Disability Services at least one week prior to the test date. Extended time, out-of-classroom testing, oral exams and other alternative testing are options offered to students with disabilities.

## Reduced Course Load

Waivers may be available to students with disabilities who need the accommodation of a reduced course load. Waivers are granted by the undergraduate dean. Students with disabilities needing the accommodation of a reduced course load will not be penalized by Financial Aid or Housing and Residential Services.

## Bill of Rights

The following enumeration of rights is not to be construed to deny or disparage other rights retained by students in their capacity as members of the student body or as citizens of the community at large.

- A. Free inquiry, expression and assembly are guaranteed to all students.
- B. Students are free to pursue their educational goals; appropriate opportunities for learning in the classroom and on the campus shall be provided by the institution.
- C. The right of students to be secure in their persons, living quarters, paper and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures is guaranteed.
- D. No disciplinary sanctions will be imposed upon any student without notice to the accused of the nature and cause of the charge.
- E. A student accused of violating institutional regulations is entitled, upon request, to a hearing before the appropriate judicial body.

## Access to Higher Education

Within the limits of its facilities, Fitchburg State College is open to all applicants who are qualified according to its admission requirements.

- A. The institution will make clear with this document and the Fitchburg State College Catalog the characteristics and expectations of students which it considers relevant to its programs.
- B. Under no circumstances will an applicant be denied admission because of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic background or disability.

## Compliance with Federal Non-Discrimination Regulations

Several federal regulations have been adopted that have as their purpose the protection of students' rights. Of particular interest are the following:

- A. Equal Opportunity: Fitchburg State College supports the principles of equal opportunity for employment to all qualified persons without regard to race, gender, religion, color, national origin or age. Inquiries regarding compliance may be directed to the Fitchburg State College Human Resources Office or to the director of the Offices of Civil Rights, Department of Education, Washington, D.C.
- B. Title IX: Fitchburg State College does not discriminate on the basis of gender, in accord with Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments, in its educational programs, admission policies, activities or employment policies. This legislation provides that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of gender, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. This includes protection from sexual harassment. Inquiries regarding compliance may be directed to the dean of students or to the director of the Offices of Civil Rights, Department of Education, Washington, D.C.
- C. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act: Fitchburg State College does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities in its educational programs, admissions policies, activities or employment policies. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, provides that no otherwise qualified individual with a disability shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination solely because of their disability, under any program or activity that receives federal financial assistance. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 provides comprehensive civil rights protection to individuals with disabilities and prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in employment, places of public accommodations, state and local government services and telecommunications. Inquiries regarding compliance may be directed to the director of Disability Services or to the director of the Offices of Civil Rights, Department of Education, Washington, D.C.

On-campus grievance procedures for alleged violations of the non-discrimination regulations are the same as those employed for challenging violations of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.