



## How to Become a California Community College Learning Disability (LD) Specialist

### "MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS"

- To become an LD Specialist in a California Community College, one must meet "minimum qualifications" referred to as "minimum quals:"
- Minimum quals for a Learning Disabilities Specialist are:
  - "Master's degree in learning disabilities, special education, education, psychology, speech language pathology, communication disorders, educational or school psychology, counseling, or rehabilitation counseling AND 15 semester units of upper division or graduate study in the area of learning disabilities, to include, but not limited to, adult cognitive and achievement assessment OR the equivalent."

### APPLYING TO THE CA COMM. COLLEGES' LEARNING DISABILITIES ELIGIBILITY AND SERVICES MODEL (LDESM) TRAINING

- This is not a training program in learning disability theory, assessment, or accommodation. Persons who are not already trained in the administration and interpretation of assessments used in determining the presence of learning disabilities should not apply to attend this training.
- Participants in the training must already be experienced users of the assessment instruments included in the model.
- The model is complex. If you are unfamiliar with the assessment instruments, you will find the material difficult to follow. We will not be addressing questions regarding administration, scoring, and interpretation of the assessment instruments.
- The California Community College Chancellors Office normally sponsors the LDESM training twice a year, once in northern California and once in southern California. At the conclusion of the three-day training, participants have one year to complete the follow-up requirements.



## HOW TO QUALIFY FOR THE LDESM TRAINING

- Individuals in the LDESM training need to be trained in and be able to interpret:
  - *Cognitive Assessment* (Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale and/or Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Cognitive Abilities)
  - *Achievement Assessment* (Wechsler Individual Achievement Test (WIAT) and/or the Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Achievement)
- Trainees may go through the [Sacramento State Adult Learning Disabilities Certificate Program](#) to fulfill this requirement. This program offers the 3 assessment courses needed for LDESM training eligibility. Having the experience and coursework in assessment is a requirement in order to become a California Community College Learning Disabilities Specialist.
  - LDESM training participants are required to complete two pre-tests: one aptitude and one achievement measure. The pre-tests are done to measure the assessment knowledge of training participants. The pre-tests will be emailed to participants prior to the training.
  - One could also intern with a current LD Specialist and then meet the requirements to get into the LDESM training that way. Here are the regulations for Internships:
    - ♦ [Documentation of Internship Requirements for LD Training Applications](#)
    - ♦ [Internship Information](#)
- If you are currently employed by the California Community College system, the LDESM training is free. If not currently employed by a CCC, the training will have a cost.



## HOW TO COMPLETE THE LDESM TRAINING AND GET CERTIFIED AS A CCC LD SPECIALIST

- At the conclusion of the three-day training, participants have one year from the date of the training to administer comprehensive assessments to two community college students sequentially. Each completed protocol is submitted to the trainers for review.
- Trainees will need to find a “mentor,” a currently certified LD specialist to help review their protocols, have access to test kits and community college students, and support them along the way.
- When both sets of protocols pass review by the LDESM trainers, the participant will be determined to have successfully completed the course and will be sent a certificate of completion by the CCC Chancellor’s Office.
- Anyone wishing to repeat the LDESM may apply to do so by applying for the training again once offered, though priority is given to those applying for the training for the first time.

## HOW TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NEXT TRAINING

- To find out about the LDESM training you may e-mail the California Community College Chancellor's Office DSPS Specialist, Jennifer Tabb at [jtabb@cccco.edu](mailto:jtabb@cccco.edu) for more information.
- We highly recommend joining the LD Listserv, if possible, to ensure you hear updates around when each LDESM training occurs. (Only .edu email addresses may join this listserv.) Please visit this website for more information on how to join this listerv, along with others: <https://cccaccessibility.org/index.php/about/mailling-lists>. They have links and instructions on how to join.