

A photograph of a graduate wearing a green cap and gown, viewed from behind. The graduate is seated in a wheelchair, which is partially visible in the foreground. The background is blurred, showing other graduates and warm, yellowish lighting.

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– MCC Student Success Counselor  
Tore Skogseth



# BUILDING *on student strengths*

By Shelly Strautz-Springborn

## MCC tailors accessibility services to fit the needs of individual students

**For more information:**  
Visit [www.montcalm.edu/  
accessibility-services](http://www.montcalm.edu/accessibility-services)  
Email [studentsuccess  
@montcalm.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@montcalm.edu)  
Call 989-328-1283

Montcalm Community College offers a variety of services to help students with disabilities overcome barriers to achieve their educational goals.

Accessibility services are available to all students with a documented disability, who have been accepted at MCC and have completed ACCUPLACER testing, a placement test required of all students for admission to the college.

MCC Student Success Counselor Tore Skogseth, who administers the college's accessibility services, said accommodations are evaluated on a case-by-case basis and are tailored to fit a student's individual needs.

"Our philosophy is to build on student strengths by working with the student to consider strategies to help them overcome obstacles in the academic setting," Skogseth said.

"When it comes to disabilities, there is really no one size fits all," Skogseth said. "What works for one student may very well not work for another student. My goal is always to work individually with the student to find things that can work and are supported by the student's documentation."

Unlike in high school, students must self-identify when they get to college.

"In high school, students are identified and offered accommodations, but in college, students have to actively seek accommodations to receive them," Skogseth said.

MCC facilities are designed to permit persons with disabilities to enroll in and benefit from education. MCC is committed to assuring that students who enroll for admission to the college are not discriminated against and receive the accommodations required under Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as amended in the ADA Amendments Act, effective Jan. 1, 2009. This means the college engages in positive efforts to assure accommodations for students with disabilities.

Skogseth said when he meets with a student who is seeking services, it's helpful if he or she can provide information about specific accommodations that may have worked in the past.

"Often, it's helpful in identifying accommodations that work here," Skogseth said. "While we may not be able to provide the same services the students have used in high school, the services we provide are always open to evaluation, and everything happens in a collaborative manner with the student."

Once a plan is determined, it is re-evaluated each semester. Some typical college accommodations may include alternative textbook formats such as audio versions, making audio recordings of lectures, use of an electronic device in the classroom such as a laptop computer, taking exams in a distraction-reduced room and allowing extended time if an assignment such as a test or a quiz is timed.

Qualified students with disabilities are entitled to accommodations only if they have self-identified, have provided appropriate documentation and have requested accommodations. The student must register as a student with disabilities by contacting MCC's Student Success Center, located in room D318 in the Beatrice E. Doser Building on the college's Sidney campus.