“Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act are "non-discrimination" statutes that are based on a civil rights model. They aren't entitlement laws, and they don't guarantee successful learning or mandate the creation of special programs for persons with disabilities. Instead, section 504 and the ADA guarantee that the simple presence of a disability cannot be used as the basis for denying an otherwise qualified student equal "access" to the same programs, services and facilities available to others. Simply stated, the goal of section 504 and the ADA is to remove barriers and to guarantee reasonable accommodations so that persons with disabilities have an opportunity to participate at the level enjoyed by the average person.

A student who provides Disabled Student Services (DSS) with sufficient evidence of disability to meet the standards established by the ADA or Section 504 is eligible for appropriate accommodations and services at MSU-Bozeman, provided the student is an otherwise qualified applicant.”

http://www.montana.edu/wwwres/disability/disability_a_vs_se.shtml

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS
- Accommodations are the Law
- Students have the right to equal access
- We must accommodate students for all MSU sanctioned events
- DRVS stresses, “this is an interactive process with students”
- Students are issued a DRVS “Blue Card” which is presented to instructors when accommodations are requested.
- DRVS recommends that faculty to not provide accommodations without a Blue Card.
- Students must be capable with reasonable accommodation to address essential functions of the course and the program

WAYS YOU CAN ASSIST A STUDENT
- Faculty can refer a student to DRVS but the student has the choice of going to DRVS
- Digital material should have captioning embedded and if requested captions must be provided
- If a student is missing a lot of classes call DRVS - 994-2824
- Remember that email is not confidential - Feel free to call or stop by the DRVS office 108 SUB
- If reasonable you may provide materials ahead of time for interpreters (i.e.: guest presenters may have a power point presentation)

TOP FOUR LIST THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN WORKING WITH STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
- Don’t talk down to disabled students
- Please do not say “no” without talking to DRVS
- Do not hold to preconceived notions – this is discrimination
- Contact DRVS if a student is disruptive

DRV ALSO ASSISTS WITH VETERANS AND RE-ENTRY STUDENTS. There may be overlap in programs from DRVS Office for accommodations and services.