

The University of the Incarnate Word is committed to providing a supportive, challenging, diverse, and integrated environment for all students.

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973—Subpart E and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the University ensures accessibility to its programs, services, and activities for students with documented disabilities.

To qualify for services, the student must provide the Office of Student Disability Services appropriate documentation of his or her disability at the time services and/or accommodations are requested.

This brochure is available
in alternate format
upon request

*Information provided by the University of Southern California

The University of the Incarnate Word
Student Disability Services

4301 Broadway CPO # 28
San Antonio, TX 78209

Administration Building Room # 105
Phone 210-829-3997
Fax 210-805-5895

Student Disability Services

**The University of
the Incarnate Word**



**Speech
Impairments**

**Administration Building
Room 105**

Telephone: 210-829-3997

Speech Impairments

Speech impairments can have many causes: hearing loss, illness, injury, and congenital or psychological conditions. Speech impairments are found alone and in combination with other disabilities.

Speech impairments range from problems with articulation or voice strength to an inability to speak at all

Unless the impairment is recent, students with speech impairments generally have had some speech therapy. Among the more common speech impairments encountered are:

- Stuttering
- Chronic hoarseness
- Difficulty in evoking an appropriate word or term
- Esophageal speech (resulting from a laryngectomy)

Many speech impaired students are reluctant to participate in activities that require speaking. Even if a student has adjusted well to the speech impairment, new situations may enhance anxiety. Self-expression should be encouraged, however pressure to speak is not likely to be helpful. Speaking in front of a group can be an agonizing experience for a speaking-impaired student.

Instructional Strategies

- Give students with communication disabilities the opportunity to participate in class discussions as much as possible, even if extra time is necessary
- Encourage participation, but do not require a student with a communication difficulty to speak in front of the class
- If the course requires oral communication and the student is unable to communicate orally, arrange for alternative methods such as written communications that might be shared with the class. Some students will on occasion use laptop speech synthesizers for communication in class.
- Allow students who are unable to participate orally to use a typewriter, word processor, signboard, or sign interpreter in class
- If you do not know what is being said, do not pretend to know. Tell the student you do not understand and allow him or her to repeat the communication
- Let the student participate through reading assignments or responses to specific questions that are read to the class by a reader

Student Disability Services

**Dr. Rhonda Rapp
Director**

**Cynthia Pino
Academic Counselor**

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