

# **Disability Resource Center**

# Student Test/Exam Accommodation Policies and Procedures Handbook

Testing Center
NA-2
760.744.1150 ext. 3939
drcproctor@palomar.edu

# Welcome

Welcome to the Disability Resource Center!

This comprehensive handbook includes:

- How to access MyDRC
- How to request an Academic Accommodation Letter
- How to request an exam appointment with the Testing Center
- Testing Center Policies and Procedures for Students

# **MyDRC**

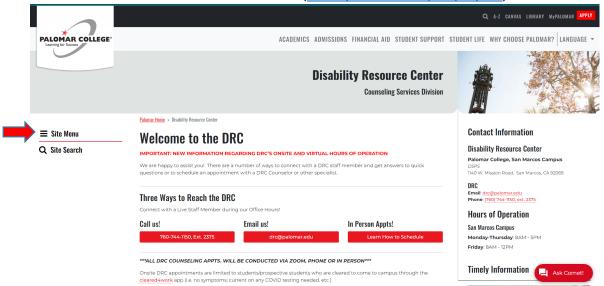
MyDRC is an online portal where registered DRC students can:

- 1) request academic accommodation letter(s),
- 2) print and/or download their approved Academic Accommodation Letter(s) and
- 3) request, view, and download alternate media.

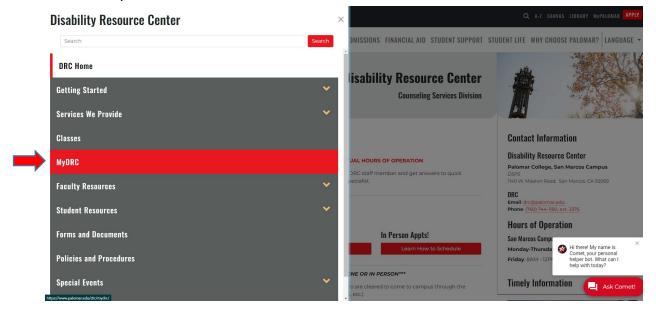
Academic Accommodation Letter(s) will appear in MyDRC after they are approved by a DRC counselor. To access MyDRC, the student will need their MyPalomar student e-mail address and password.

## How to access MyDRC:

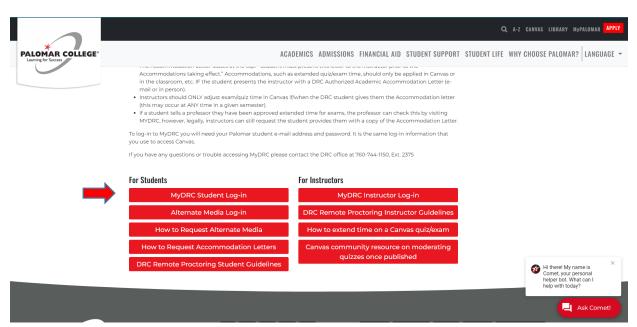
1. Click on "Site Menu" on the DRC website. (www.palomar.edu/drc/mydrc)



#### 2. Click on "MyDRC"



### 3. Click on "MyDRC Student Log-in"



# **Authorized Academic Accommodation Letter(s)**

Students seeking to utilize academic accommodations must be approved by a DRC counselor based on disability documentation on file with the DRC office. If you have any questions regarding your file, please contact the DRC Front Office.

Students are required to obtain a new Academic Accommodation Letter for each new course. Letter(s) are course and instructor specific therefore, if a student drops a course and re-enrolls in another one, a new request must be submitted for the new course, regardless of whether it is the same subject or instructor.

Students must meet with a DRC counselor **once a year** to be considered active. Failure to not meet once a year will result in denial of accommodation letter(s).

Letter(s) can be requested via MyDRC. Once the request has been received and prepared by a DRC counselor, it will be emailed to the student's Palomar email. It is the student's responsibility to present their Academic Accommodation Letter(s) to their instructor(s) via email or in person. Instructions for instructors are included in the letter, however, the DRC highly encourages students to direct their instructor(s) to MyDRC to digitally acknowledge the letter.

# How to Request an Accommodation Letter in MyDRC

1. Click on the "Accommodation Letters" icon.



MyDRC - Palomar College - 1140 West Mission Rd - San Marcos, CA 92069 - 760.744.1150 ext. 2375

2. Click on the "Accommodations" tab.



Request for Accommodations @ Help

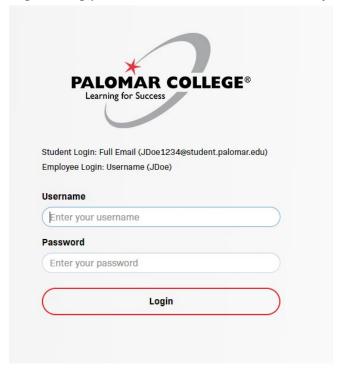
You can request your Academic Accommodation Letter(s) using the tools in this section. Once a request is submitted it will be reviewed by a DRC Counselor. If your request consists of changes or you have not met with a counselor in over a year, you will need to meet with a DRC counselor before your Academic Accommodation Letter(s) can be generated. To schedule an appointment with a DRC counselor or receive information on our Drop-In options, please contact the DRC Front Office at 760.744.1150 ext. 2375.

Once a request for accommodations have been approved by a DRC counselor, your Academic Accommodation Letter(s) will be viewable by both you and your instructor on MyDRC. You will need to personally email or deliver your Accommodation Letter(s) to your instructor(s). You can print them at home through MyDRC or you can come to the DRC Front Office and pick up a printed copy. Approved accommodations will only take effect and be implemented once you have presented/emailed the Accommodation Letter(s) to your Professor(s).

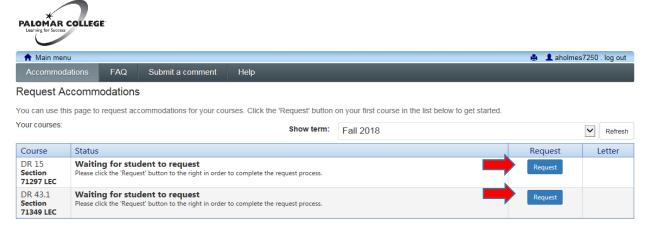
If you have any questions or require assistance please contact the DRC Front Office at 760.744.1150 ext. 2375 or <a href="mailto:drc@palomar.edu">drc@palomar.edu</a>. Click the 'Accommodations' button in the main menu in order to get started.

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4. Log-in using your student e-mail address and MyPalomar password.

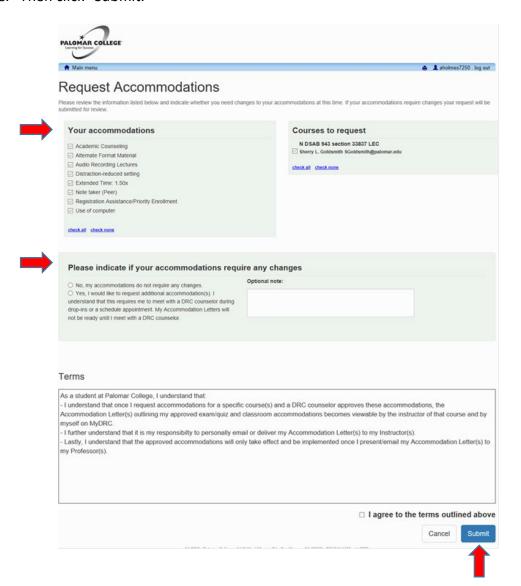


5. Click on the "Request" button next to the course for which you are requesting the accommodation.

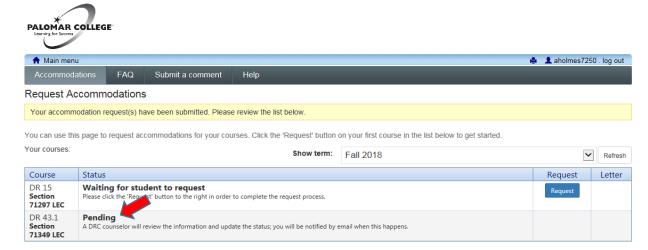


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**6.** Select the accommodation(s) you are requesting. Then select the course(s) for which you are requesting the Accommodation Letter(s). Indicate in the text box if there are any changes being requested to your approved accommodation(s). Read the "Terms" and check "I agree to terms outlined above." Then click "Submit."

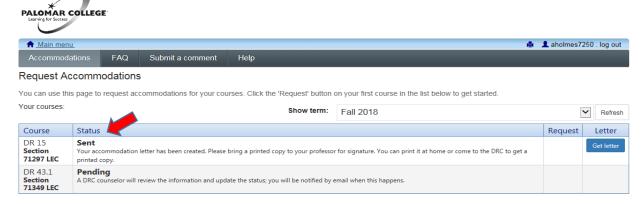


7. Once you click "submit" on the prior screen you will see the confirmation below. **Note** that the status is "Pending" at this time.



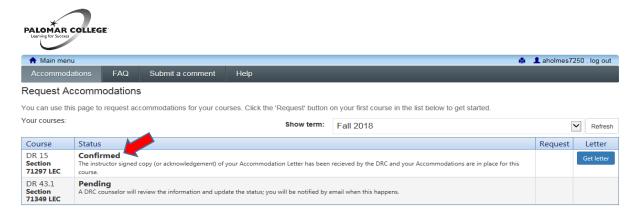
MyDRC - Palomar College - 1140 West Mission Rd - San Marcos, CA 92069 - 760.744.1150 ext. 2375

8. The status will update to "Sent" once a DRC counselor has approved the accommodations that you have requested.



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**9.** The status will update to "Confirmed" once the Accommodation Letter(s) is acknowledged by the DRC, or instructor has acknowledged the receipt online.

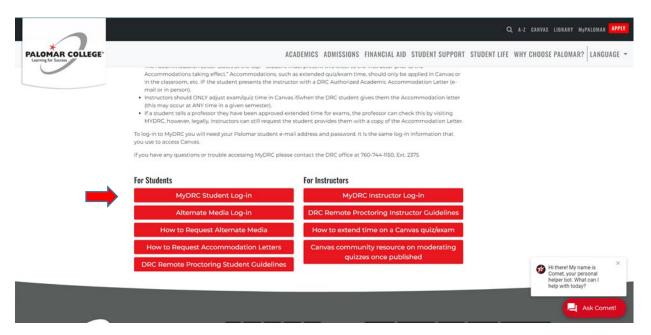


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# **Testing Center Policies and Procedures for Students**

# How to Request a Test/Exam Appointment via MyDRC

1. Click on "MyDRC Student Log-in"



2. Click on the "Schedule a Test or Exam" icon.



MyDRC - Palomar College - 1140 West Mission Rd - San Marcos, CA 92069 - 760.744.1150 ext. 2375

3. Click on the "Schedule a test, mid-term or quiz" tab.



#### **DRC Student Test Booking and Accommodations**

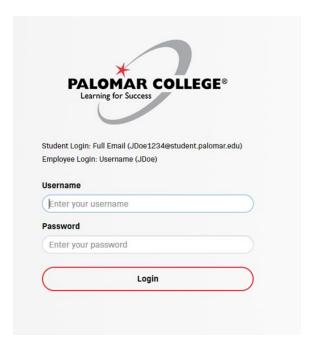
Welcome to the Student Test Booking and Accommodations website. On this site you will be able to:

- · Book a quiz, mid-term, or test
- Book a final exam
- Check your upcoming scheduled testing appointments
- View your accommodations that have been assigned by your counselor
- Print out a pdf copy of your accommodations letter

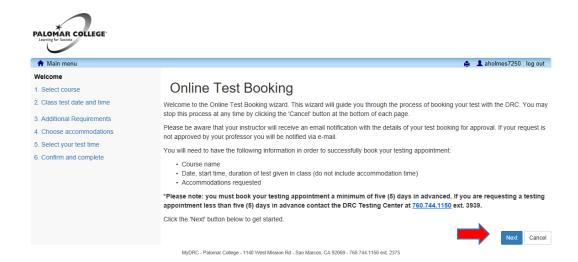
Please click the Schedule a test, mid-term or quiz link in the menu above in order to book a test, or choose the menu option that you would like to use.

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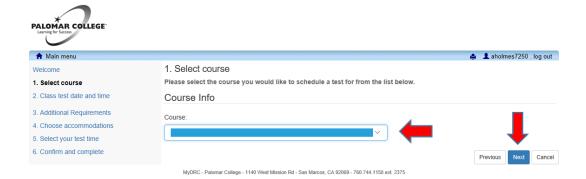
4. Log-in using your student e-mail address and MyPalomar password.



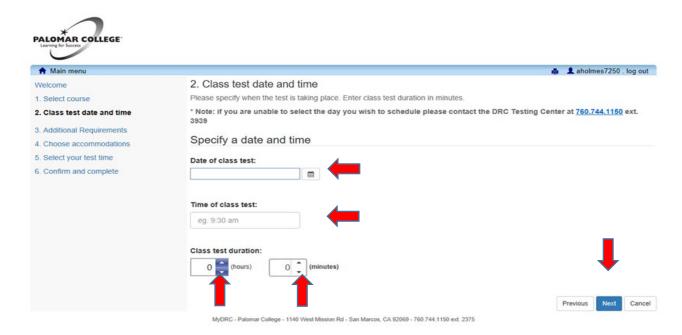
5. After reading the directions, click on "Next."



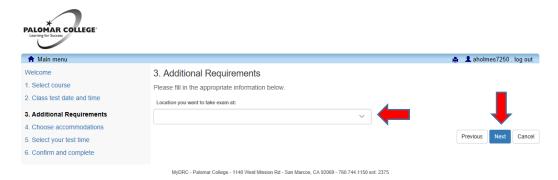
6. Choose the course you need to take the test/exam for using the drop-down list below "Course." After selecting the course, click "Next."



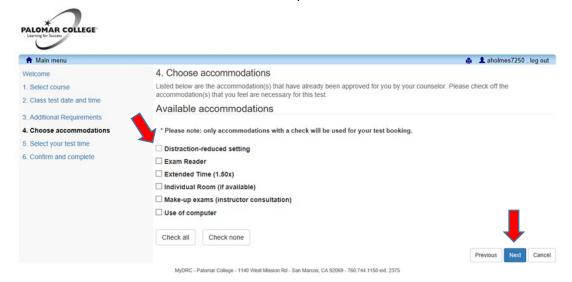
7. Fill in the date of the test/exam in the "Date of class test" field. Fill in the time of the test/exam in the "Time of class test" field. Fill in the time the class gets to take the test/exam below the "Class test duration." If you are unsure how long the class gets to take the test/exam, put in the regular length of your class. Your professor will let the Testing Center know the correct length of exam once they review and approve the appointment. After completing all the above fields, click "Next".



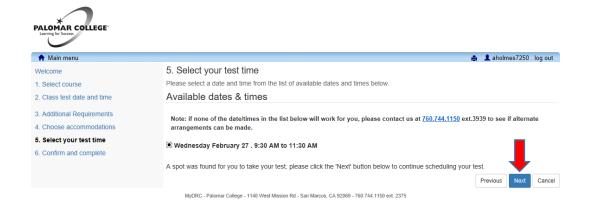
8. Fill in the location that you would like to take the exam in the "Location you want to take exam at:" field. Most exams are taken at the DRC Testing Center on the San Marcos campus. If your class is held at a location other than San Marcos, you may request to take the exam at the location of your class or at the San Marcos campus. Click "Next".



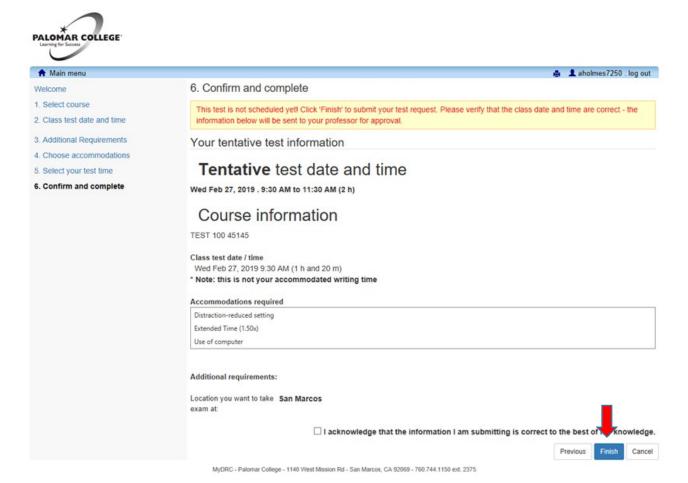
9. Select the accommodation(s) that you feel are necessary for this exam by checking the checkbox next to each accommodation needed. Once complete click "Next".



10. The system has automatically found a seat for your exam and provided the extra time required based on your accommodation. Please review the time and date to and confirm by clicking "Next". If the system was unable to find you a time, please call the DRC Testing Center at 760.744.1150, ext. 3939 for assistance.



11. Review the time, date, length, and accommodations requested for the exam. Click the checkbox next to "I acknowledge that the information...". Then click "Finish".



# **Requesting Test/Exam Appointment**

- Student may request a test/exam appointment by:
  - Loggin in MyDRC
  - o In-person at the DRC Testing Center in NA-2
  - o Phone: 760-744-1150 ext. 3939
  - o Email: drcproctor@palomar.edu
- Students seeking to utilize their exam accommodations administered by the Testing Center must have a current Authorized Academic Accommodation letter. Exams will not be administered without an approved Academic Accommodation Letter on file and sent to the instructor.
- Tests/exams taken with the DRC Testing Center are administered by appointment only.
- **Five (5) business days** before the test/exam, students are required to request an exam appointment in person, by phone, or online through MyDRC. **Two weeks' notice is needed for final exams**.
- Business days for the DRC are Monday Thursday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and 8:00 am to 2:00pm on Friday. Holidays are not considered a business day. Please refer to the <u>current academic calendar</u> for accurate information.
- Testing day and time should coincide with the same time that the class takes the test/exam unless
  prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. Requests for test/exam appointments made
  after the five-day deadline may not be supported or occur on the requested date and time. Likewise,
  appointments made for finals exams after the two-week deadline may not be supported or occur on
  the requested date and time.
- Test/exam appointments will be confirmed and booked after being reviewed by the Testing Center Coordinator.
- It is the student's responsibility to check their MyDRC account to confirm exam dates and times.

# Checking-in for a Test/Exam

- Students are encouraged to arrive to take their appointment five (5) to ten (10) minutes before the scheduled start time to allow ample time for check-in. All students will need to check in with the DRC Testing Center Assistant and provide a photo I.D. Students without a photo ID, will need to contact the DRC Testing Coordinator immediately to discuss alternate options.
- If the student arrives **more than 15 minutes late**, the Testing Center Coordinator will need to be contacted for approval. Should there be extenuating circumstances surrounding the late arrival, contact DRC's Testing Coordinator immediately.
- Upon approval from the DRC Testing Coordinator, students may start their exam appointment up to 10 minutes before their scheduled appointment time unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

- Due to the limited space inside the DRC Testing Center lobby, **only 2 students** will be allowed at a time. Please wait outside the Testing Center until directed to enter the lobby.
- All personal belongings not approved for use during the test/exam including books, notes, backpacks, purses, calculators, food/drink, smart/electronic devices (ex: Apple Watch), etc. will need to be placed in the storage areas.
- All electronic/smart devices must be placed in the storage area, unless it is a medical device, and the DRC office has documentation the need for use.
- The DRC is not responsible for any damage or loss to students' personal property.
- **Cell phones** need to be **turned off.** Cell phones must be given to the Testing Center staff upon check-in or placed with the student's belongings in the designated lockers/spaces before entering the testing area.
- Only instructor-approved items (books, notes, etc.) may be taken into the testing area.
- Food and drinks are not allowed in the testing room, except for water bottles with a closeable lid. Students who require food during the exam are permitted to exit the testing room and consume their food in the lobby of the Testing Center.
- Talking, whispering, gum-chewing, pencil tapping, eating, excessive entering and exiting of the testing area etc., may be distracting to other students who are testing. Students exhibiting distracting behavior will be asked to cease the behavior by the proctor or Testing Coordinator. If the behavior continues, the student will be removed from the testing area and required to meet with the DRC Coordinator, counselor, or Director before being permitted to take tests/exams in DRC's Testing Center.
- If a memory aide has been approved as an accommodation, please refer to our <u>Guide for</u> Implementation for Students and Instructors for more information.
- It is the student's responsibility to bring all testing materials (i.e. scantrons, calculators, etc.)
- Any approved notes used during the test/exam will be photocopied and provided to the instructor after the exam is completed.
- The DRC will provide scratch paper, and this will need to be turned in with the test/exam.
- The DRC provides new earplugs to use for free.

# Alternative & Assistive Media/Readers/Scribes/Aides

- Students must notify the DRC Testing Center at the time of requesting a test/exam appointment if they would like to utilize an approved reader, scribe, or assistive and alternate media.
- A reader or scribe will not be scheduled or available on the test/exam day unless requested in advance. A minimum of five (5) business days is needed to allow the DRC to secure a reader or a scribe.
- Please note, test/exam appointments that require a reader or scribe made after the five-day deadline may not be supported.
- The DRC would like to encourage students approved for readers and scribes to utilize available assistive technology and alternate media. Students seeking approval and training in alternate media and assistive technology should contact their DRC counselor.
- Approved Student Aides are only allowed to assist with personal hygiene or matters involving student safety. Refer to DRC's Student Aide forms.

## Fallbrook, Rancho Bernardo, & Escondido Education Centers

- Students requesting to take tests/exams at the Fallbrook, Rancho Bernardo, or Escondido Education
   Centers will need to adhere the following guidelines:
  - Students must follow the standard appointment request procedure. Failure to request test/exam appointment(s) through the DRC Testing Center may result in accommodations not being supported.
  - Tests/Exams proctored at satellite campuses will be administered at the center's TLC unless other arrangements have been made and approved by the DRC. Students will be notified of any changes to location prior to the appointment.
  - Please note that TLC hours differ from the DRC Testing Center.
    - Fallbrook TLC Hours- Mon-Thu: 8:00 am 5:15 pm (exams must be completed by 5:00 pm)
    - Rancho Bernardo TLC Hours- Mon-Thu: 7:30 am 6:00 pm (exams must be completed by 5:45 pm)
    - Escondido TLC Hours- Mon-Thu: 8:00 am 6:00 pm (exams must be completed by 5:45 pm)

# **Evening & Weekend Classes**

• The DRC Testing Center is open from 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Thursday, and 8 am to 2 pm on Friday. Students in courses with test/exam times that fall outside of the DRC Testing hours may:

- Work with the instructor to receive the approved accommodations at the class/exam time.
- Schedule the test/exam during DRC's hours of operation on a day/time after coming to an agreement with the instructor on an appropriate alternative day/time.
- o If no other option is available, contact the DRC Testing **Center five (5) business days** in advance to schedule an appointment at the same time as the class.

## **Online Courses**

- Students taking an online course and seeking to utilize their approved academic accommodations must follow standard protocol. Students must request an Academic Accommodation Letter and provide a copy to their instructor.
- Students requesting online proctoring appointment must contact the DRC Testing Center **five (5) business days** in advance to arrange a one-on-one online proctor. Failure to request test/exam appointment(s) through the DRC Testing Center may result in accommodations not being supported.
- All online proctoring will be conducted via Zoom.
- Students who are taking online courses that do not require a one-on-one proctor but would like to utilize the DRC Testing Center physical location for their test/exam, must follow the standard appointment request procedure.
- Students taking an online test/exam on Canvas should confirm with their instructor that their exam accommodation has been applied. We recommend students to check with their instructor 24 hours before the scheduled test/exam time. Contact the instructor via their preferred method of communication (ex. email, Canvas, etc.) and the DRC Testing Center if the extended time has not been applied properly.
- **DO NOT START THE TEST/EXAM** if the approved accommodation(s) has not been applied. Contact the instructor and the DRC Testing Center immediately informing them that the accommodations have not been applied for the test/exam.

## **Nursing Exams**

- The DRC Testing Center staff is certified to proctor ATI exams.
- The DRC highly encourages Nursing students to bring their own laptop or borrow one from the Nursing Department.

# **Rescheduled Test/Exam Appointments**

• Students needing to reschedule their exam appointment must notify the DRC Testing Center **as soon as possible**.

- All appointments that need to be rescheduled must be approved by the instructor. Students will need
  to provide approval from the instructor of the new time and date. Once a new time and date have
  been approved, the student must contact the DRC Testing Center to reschedule their appointment.
  Examples of approval include:
  - o Email or phone call from the instructor to the DRC Testing Center.

## **Cancellation & No-Show**

- Students are responsible for canceling appointments by phone, email, or in person. If the student fails to cancel their appointment, the appointment will be marked as a no-show.
- After two (2) no-shows, the student will need to meet with the DRC Counselor or Director to get testing accommodation re-instated.
- Only the student, instructor, or approved person(s) as indicated by the student on DRC's Consent to Release Information form are allowed to cancel testing appointments.

# **No Appointment**

- Test/exam appointment requests not made **five (5) business days** in advance will need to be reviewed by the Testing Center Coordinator.
- Students attempting to take tests/exams not scheduled in advance will have their tests/exams administered at the discretion of the Testing Coordinator based on availability.
- Availability is determined by space, time, and other approved accommodation needs.
- After two (2) "no-appointment" incidents, the student will need to meet with a DRC Counselor or Director to get testing accommodations re-instated.

# **Test/Exam Method of Delivery**

- The DRC Testing Center and instructors are responsible for the delivery of tests/exams to and from the DRC Testing Center.
- Students are not allowed to deliver tests/exams to the DRC Testing Center or return completed tests/exams to their instructor.

# **Academic Integrity**

Please note that DRC staff monitor a live video camera feed that records activity in the DRC Testing
Center. Close monitoring is conducted in private rooms. All incidents of cheating, suspicious activity, or
other academic dishonesty will be documented and reported to the instructor. Cheating is a violation
of the <u>Standards of Student Conduct (AP 5500)</u> and may result in suspension or expulsion. Should the

student violate the terms agreed upon between the student, the instructor, DRC and Palomar College, testing accommodation services may be suspended. Please refer to <a href="Palomar's Student Discipline">Palomar's Student Discipline</a>
<a href="Palomar's Student Discipline">Procedures (AP 5520)</a> for more information.

## **Disruptive Behavior**

• Students are to always adhere to <u>Palomar College Student Code of Conduct.</u> All violations will be documented and reported to the Office of Student Affairs and the DRC Director.

# **Breaks during Test/Exam**

- Students are encouraged to use the facilities before starting a test/exam.
- If restroom/nutrition breaks during testing is an approved accommodation, the student must leave all testing materials at the DRC Testing Center as they are not allowed to leave with test/exam materials or personal items after the testing appointment has begun. Cell phones or other personal devices/materials will need to be left at the DRC Testing Center while the student uses the facilities or takes a nutrition break.
- Students approved for a nutrition break must have their snack already in their possession. Students are not allowed to leave the DRC Testing Center to buy a snack at a vending machine or campus cafeteria.
- Students approved for a nutrition break must eat their snack in the DRC Testing Center lobby. Food is
  not allowed inside the testing area as it may cause a distraction to other students testing. Water
  bottles with a closeable lid are allowed.
- Students will have **ten (10) minutes** to use the facilities. Time exceeding ten (10) minutes will be documented and reported to the Testing Center Coordinator. Any unusual activity or unusual length of time taken for the break will be documented and reported to the instructor. **Testing time will not be paused** during break (unless "restroom breaks, clock stopped" is an approved accommodation on your Authorized Academic Accommodation Letter). If the instructor does not allow restroom breaks during the duration of the test/exam, the DRC will need to follow the instructor's request, unless restroom breaks are an approved accommodation. The Testing Center Assistant will notify the student at the beginning of the test/exam appointment if restroom breaks are not allowed.
- Students experiencing disability-related episodes which require breaks during a test/exam but have not been approved, must notify the Testing Center Coordinator immediately.

## **Time Allowed During Exams**

• Time will be determined based on the standard time for the test/exam provided by the instructor. The standard test/exam time will then be adjusted based on the student's approved extended time

accommodation (time and a half or double time). If the instructor does not provide a standard time for the test/exam, the Testing Center staff will make an attempt to obtain this information via email or phone.

- The student's test/exam time will start when the student arrives at their designated seat in the Testing Center. The students are responsible for monitoring their own time. Students are encouraged to use the clock in the room or on the computer, if applicable, or a personal timer, provided by the DRC, to monitor their time independently. Personal timers can be requested at any time during the test/exam.
- When the student's time has expired, the proctor will notify the student. If the student continues to work on the test/exam after the allotted time has expired, the proctor will make a note that the student neglected to stop despite being instructed to do so. It is the instructor's discretion if the student will receive credit for the test/exam.
- If the student runs out of time, it will be noted; the instructor is not required to allow the student additional time to complete the test/exam. If the student would like to request additional extended time, the student will need to make an appointment with a DRC counselor to discuss an accommodation request/revision.
- The Testing Center staff are not allowed to extend time or adjust accommodations if the test/exam was not completed during the scheduled time. If a student would like to request additional extended time for subsequent exams, they need to make an appointment with a DRC counselor to discuss this accommodation request/revision.

# **Upon Completion of Test/Exam**

- All materials must be turned into the proctor, including test/exam, scratch paper, and notes (if approved).
- Once the test/exam has been handed over to the proctor, it will be placed in a sealed envelope, and it
  will not be able to be given back to the student. If the student would like to make corrections or add
  information, the student will need to make arrangements with the course instructor.
- The DRC will return the test/exam to the instructor or department in accordance with the course instructor's preferences.

#### **TESTING CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION**

# **Testing Center Professionals**

**Cynthia Cordova** 

Testing Center Coordinator Ccordova1@palomar.edu

#### Alma Vasquez

Testing Center Assistant avasquez1@palomar.edu

#### **Rebecca Sterling**

Testing Center Assistant rsterling@palomar.edu

#### Location

NA-2

drcproctor@palomar.edu 760-744-1150 ext. 3939

#### **Hours of Operations**

**Monday-Thursday** 

8:00 am to 5:00 pm\*

**Friday** 

8:00 am to 2:00 pm\*

Exams must be completed 15-minutes before closing.