



Online Orientation

San Diego Community College District

WorkAbility III



What is WorkAbility III?

- WorkAbility III programs are cooperative partnerships between the California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) and participating Community Colleges within the State of California.



Purpose

- WorkAbility III programs are intended to provide vocational services to clients of the California Department of Rehabilitation who are also students attending specific California Community Colleges.
- WorkAbility III helps students obtain employment during and after completion of their education and vocational training in accordance with their IPE (Individualized Plan for Employment).



Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must be *eligible* to be clients of the California Department of Rehabilitation.
- Participants must be clients of the California Department of Rehabilitation.



Eligibility (continued)

- Applicants must be attending school in the San Diego Community College District. They can take classes at either a College or Continuing Education site (or both):

College Sites:

- City College
- Miramar College
- Mesa College

Continuing Education Sites:

- Centre City
- West City
- ECC
- North City
- Mid City
- CE @ Mesa
- Cesar Chavez



DOR Contact Information

You may apply for the Department of Rehabilitation services online at www.dor.ca.gov or you may contact the DOR office closest to your home to speak with an intake counselor.

- Chula Vista Office (619) 426-8720
- Encinitas Office (760) 479-1200
- Escondido Office (760) 796-4670
- La Mesa Office (619) 667-5649
- Mission Valley Office (619) 767-2100



Referral Sources

- DOR: Students may be referred by their Department of Rehabilitation Counselor (DOR) to WorkAbility III.
- DSPS: Students may also be referred by their Disability Support Programs and Services (DSPS) Counselor located at SDCCD College and Continuing Education sites.
- Self-Referral: Individuals interested in SDCCD's WorkAbility III program may also contact the WorkAbility III coordinator directly.



Intake Process

- Once the referral has been received from the student's DOR counselor, an intake will be scheduled. Usually, the intake is conducted by the program coordinator.
- The intake lasts usually between 60-90 minutes. Various topics are covered, ranging from work and educational history to information about the student's disability.
- The student will be assigned a vocational specialist to work with throughout the course of a student's participation with WorkAbility III.



Intake Discussion Topics

- Current employment
- Work history
- Skills and abilities
- Education
- Volunteer experience
- Transportation
- Assistive technology
- Financial needs
- Interests
- Interview experience
- Resume development
- Vocational goal (IPE) established with DOR counselor
- Disability



Student Expectations

- Students are expected to be active participants in the job search process, working alongside their Vocational Counselor to secure employment.



What students receive:

- Professional vocational services designed to help students to obtain employment as established in the Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)
- Support throughout the job search process and during the beginning stages of employment
- Consistent communication and timely responses to questions



Vocational Services

- Vocational Counseling
- Career Exploration
- Work Experience/Internships
- Job Search Resources
- Job Seeking Skills Training
- Worksite Monitoring
- On-the-Job Accommodations



Partnerships with employers

WorkAbility III Vocational Counselors take part in networking efforts with employers in the community to benefit our students. Vocational Counselors utilize the professional relationships they develop to create opportunities for our students.



Typical Questions

I'm interested...what's my first step?

- You may contact your DOR Counselor if you are a client, speak to your DSPS counselor, or get in touch with the WorkAbility III coordinator directly.

How long do most students work with WorkAbility III?

- The length of time depends upon a student's academic progress, short vs. long term employment needs, level of participation, motivation of the student, and labor market competition depending upon the vocational field.



Questions (continued)

Does WorkAbility III focus on the student's disability?

- WorkAbility III takes into account the individual's disability and considers appropriate accommodations that would be needed to maximize student success in the work environment. WorkAbility staff emphasize the abilities of individuals and matching the **abilities** of individuals to specific jobs or fields.

What types of disabilities does WorkAbility III have experience with?

- SDCCD's WorkAbility III program has existed since 1989. During this time, staff have assisted thousands of students with many types of disabilities at various stages of the rehabilitation process.



Questions (continued)

What types of jobs do students receive?

- This depends upon the student's vocational goal.

The types of jobs students have acquired through our services are as unique as the individuals we have assisted.

How does WorkAbility III work with DOR counselors?

- WorkAbility III staff communicate with DOR counselors on a regular basis. In this way, both DOR and WorkAbility III provide a consistent level of support to maximize the possibility for student success.



WorkAbility III Staff

SDCCD's WorkAbility III staff are made up of highly qualified, graduate-level trained professionals who have specific strengths and areas of interest. All staff members have experience working with various disability groups. For more information about our staff, click here: [WorkAbility III Staff Bios](#)



Contact Information

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Thank you.

We appreciate your interest in WorkAbility III.