Providing Academic Accommodations to Students with Disabilities

Office of Disability Services
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Location and Contact

Houser Hall, Room 1000
(205) 348-4285
ods@ua.edu

ODS Testing Center
(205) 348-2716
odstesting@ua.edu

Accommodation guidance: http://ods.ua.edu/instructorstaff/

ODS Responsibilities

- Determine if a disability is present and any functional impact.
- Determine what accommodations would allow for equal access.
- Maintain confidentiality of all disability-related information.
- Serve as advocates for disability law.

Instructor Responsibilities

- Provide a syllabus statement reminding students to discuss accommodations with you.
- Maintain confidentiality of all disability-related information.
- Provide accommodations as determined by ODS.
- Consult with ODS if you have concerns. Accommodations must be provided until an alternative is reached.

Student Responsibilities

- Self-identify to ODS and provide documentation
- Individualized meeting with Accommodation Specialist
- Discuss implementation of accommodations with instructors
- Continue to meet academic requirements

AY 2017-2018

2,039 students registered with ODS, comprising 5% of the total student body

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disability Type</th>
<th>Percentage of Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LD</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADHD</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Autism Spectrum</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hearing Loss</td>
<td>0%</td>
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</tbody>
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Percentage of students with each disability type:

- Undergraduates: 94%
- Graduates: 6%

ODS student growth over a 3 year period:

- 2,100 students in AY 16-17
- 2,050 students in AY 17-18
- 2,025 students in AY 18-19
Common Accommodations

- Testing
- Note-taking
- Syllabus modifications
- Accessible communication and materials

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Accommodation Notices

When am I on notice that I must provide a particular accommodation? Once the student has presented you with an Accommodation Notice.

Instructors are not obligated to provide academic adjustments until they have received an Accommodation Notice. If the Notice arrives only within a few days of an exam, the instructor is obliged to “do the best you can” in providing reasonable academic adjustments on short notice.

Providing Accommodations

What do I do once I have been presented with an Accommodation Notice? Provide the accommodations as listed. Document any accommodations the student declines to use.

If you have any questions or concerns about implementing specific accommodations, contact ODS staff ASAP. If ODS is not contacted, faculty members are considered to have agreed to providing the recommended accommodations.

Accommodated Testing

If I do not have a location for administering tests with accommodations, can ODS help?

Yes, ODS can help, although the ultimate responsibility for providing accommodations lies with the instructor and the department.

Accommodation guidance: http://ods.ua.edu/instructorstaff/

Recommendations for Instructors

At the beginning of the semester, encourage students to meet with you to discuss accommodations.

- Be prepared to arrange note takers on behalf of students (use of Tegrity is also recommended)
- Be prepared to provide exam accommodations if ODS Testing Center is booked to capacity
- Think through how attendance modifications and make-up work can be offered

Consult ODS if you have questions or concerns. Never refuse an accommodation without talking to ODS!

Instructors play a key role in the success of students!