FAQ’s For Students

What is a disability?

“A person with a disability” is defined as “any person who

i. Has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities,

ii. Has record of such an impairment, or

iii. Is regarded as having such an impairment.”

Disabilities normally fall under one of three categories – physical disorders, psychological disorders, or learning disabilities. An individual may have more than one disability.

What are considered “reasonable” accommodations?

Reasonable accommodations at the post-secondary level are designed to make the educational setting and service readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations may include extended time for testing, opportunity to take tests in an alternative setting, note-takers, sign language interpreters, captioning services, specialized equipment, scribes and readers, et al. Only accommodations that do not fundamentally alter the nature of a program and the key elements of a course and are not unduly burdensome financially or administratively are considered “reasonable.”

I am nervous about talking to my instructors. How should I approach them about my need for accommodations?

The Learning Accommodation Center encourages students to meet privately with each instructor to discuss the accommodation form and your needs. Most faculty are familiar with the accommodation process and are encouraged to contact the Learning Accommodation Center if they have questions. Meeting privately rather than before, during, or after class, allows for more privacy and the opportunity to discuss your situation openly.

What should I do if I have been diagnosed with a disability and need accommodations?

All students needing accommodations must submit documentation of their disability to the Learning Accommodation Center. All documentation received is considered pending until students complete an initial intake appointment. In most cases, appropriate accommodations are determined at the intake appointment.

In high school I received accommodations through an Individualized Education Plan or a 504 plan. Can I use the IEP or 504 plan as documentation of my disability?

No. The IEP and the 504 plan is a helpful source of information, but is not sufficient as documentation of the disability.
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Will I have the same accommodations I had in high school?

Not necessarily. The goal of accommodations in higher education is to promote equal access and opportunity. Thus, accommodation decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.

Who will know I have a disability and use accommodations?

The Learning Accommodation Center values confidentiality. Your disability documentation is not considered part of your academic record. When you use accommodations in the classroom, instructors will know that you are registered with the Learning Accommodation Center based on the form that you deliver. Information regarding your diagnosis is shared on a need-to-know basis in order to provide accommodations.

Will my transcript reflect that I have received accommodations in my classes?

No. Your disability information is considered confidential and is not included on your transcript.

What should I do if I think I have a disability, but have never been diagnosed or tested?

A student who suspects he or she may have a disability should contact the Learning Accommodation Center and schedule an appointment to discuss his or her individual situation. Based on your history and experiences, you will be provided with information and possibly referrals. The Learning Accommodation Center does not conduct testing for learning disabilities or communication disorders, attention disorders, and/or psychological functioning; however, if such testing seems appropriate, you can be referred to clinicians who provide such services.