



Teaching Students with Disabilities

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Our Mission

- ▶ The mission of the Office of Disability Services at ASU Mid-South is to ensure that all students with disabilities have equal access to educational opportunities, so they can participate in all aspects of college life.

How does a student qualify?

- ▶ Students must self-disclose their disability to a staff or faculty member of the college and then come to the Office of Disability Services to register.
- ▶ We serve students that meet the following criteria:
 - ▶ The students have documented physical, medical, and/or psychological conditions; and
 - ▶ Professionals have verified that the students need individualized services, the absence of which would cause a disadvantage for the students.

How will you know if you have a student with a disability?

- ▶ When our office receives all documentation required for a student to be registered with the service, our Coordinator of Disability Services writes to the instructor of that course, detailing the necessary academic accommodations.
- ▶ Accommodations are not intended to give students with disabilities an unfair advantage
- ▶ Our office requests only those accommodations for which a licensed professional has determined are essential to the student's accessibility.
- ▶ Accommodations vary from student to student.

What is my responsibility as a faculty member?

- ▶ You are not required to compromise the academic quality of your course. All students must demonstrate the required level of understanding and meet class objectives.
- ▶ You should grade the work of students with disabilities as you would grade the work of any others.
- ▶ Unless specified on the accommodation letter, extensive absences are not excused by the Office of Disability Services.
- ▶ According to government regulations, faculty member is responsible for making sure the the accommodations listed are provided.

What are some simple steps I can take?

- ▶ Get more information. Talk to the student.
- ▶ Meet privately with the student or send an email.
- ▶ When you know you are having a test, ask them if they would like for you to schedule it in the Learning Center for them (if extended time is one of their accommodations.)
- ▶ Check with them periodically throughout the semester.

Types of Disabilities and Accommodations

ADA's definition:

“a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity”

Visual Impairment

- ▶ Accommodations may include:
 - ▶ Large print or Braille handouts
 - ▶ Directions, notes, assignments in electronic format
 - ▶ Audio-tape, Braille, electronic notes, handouts, texts
 - ▶ Describe visual aids
 - ▶ Tactile aids
 - ▶ Computers with optical character readers, voice activated computers, voice output, Braille keyboards and printers
 - ▶ Extended time for testing
 - ▶ Use of a reader and/or scribe for exams

Deaf or Hard of Hearing

- ▶ Accommodations may include:
 - ▶ Interpreters, note taking assistance
 - ▶ Face student when speaking
 - ▶ Written directions, assignments, lab instructions
 - ▶ Visual aids
 - ▶ Electronic mail for communicating

Mobility Issues

- ▶ Accommodations may include:
 - ▶ Relocating a class or lab to an accessible building
 - ▶ Audio recorder or notetaking assistance
 - ▶ Accessible seating or table in the classroom
 - ▶ Scribe on essay exams
 - ▶ Extended time for completing exams

Chronic Illness

- ▶ *Must be suffering from illness for at least 6 months*
 - ▶ Note taking assistance
 - ▶ Extra exam time, alternative testing arrangements
 - ▶ Assignments in electronic formats/ability to do work from home
 - ▶ Communication through electronic mail
 - ▶ Absences due to symptomology and doctor's appointments

Mental Illness

- ▶ Examples:
 - ▶ Major depression
 - ▶ Bipolar disorder
 - ▶ Schizophrenia
 - ▶ Severe anxiety disorders
 - ▶ Sleep disorders
 - ▶ Eating disorders
 - ▶ Substance-related disorders

Mental Illness

- ▶ Ways it can impede learning:
 - ▶ Concentration
 - ▶ Cognitive (short term memory difficulties)
 - ▶ Distractibility
 - ▶ Time management
 - ▶ Impulsiveness
 - ▶ Fluctuating stamina causing class absences
 - ▶ Irritability
 - ▶ Feelings of fear and anxiety about exams

Mental Illness

- ▶ Accommodations may include:
 - ▶ Preferential seating, near door
 - ▶ Prearranged or frequent breaks
 - ▶ Audio recorder, note taking assistance
 - ▶ Text, assignments in alternate formats
 - ▶ Personal and private feedback
 - ▶ Extended test taking time
 - ▶ Separate, quiet room for testing
 - ▶ Absences due to symptomology and doctor's appointments

Autism or Asperger's Syndrome

- ▶ What you May See:
 - ▶ Naïve or peculiar social behavior
 - ▶ Difficulty understanding jokes, metaphor, or irony
 - ▶ Tendency to talk 'at' people and unaware of listener's attentiveness
 - ▶ Does not deal well with ambiguity
 - ▶ Tendency to respond with intense emotion that may be out of proportion
 - ▶ May be loud and appear disruptive

Autism or Asperger's Syndrome

- ▶ Accommodations may include:
 - ▶ Extended time on test
 - ▶ Written and repetitive instructions
 - ▶ Access to instructor's note (or student's)
 - ▶ Simplification of complex instructions and assignments

Learning Disabilities

- ▶ **Spoken language**—listening and speaking.
 - ▶ **Auditory perception and processing**
 - ▶ **Information processing speed**
- ▶ **Written language**—reading, writing, and spelling.
 - ▶ **Visual perception and processing**
- ▶ **Arithmetic**—calculation and mathematical concepts.
 - ▶ **Visual perception and processing**
 - ▶ **Abstract reasoning**
- ▶ **Reasoning**—organization and integration of ideas and thoughts.
 - ▶ **Abstract reasoning**
 - ▶ **Memory (long-term, short-term)**
 - ▶ **Planning and time management**

Learning Disabilities

- ▶ Accommodations may include:
 - ▶ Use of a calculator
 - ▶ Copies of overheads, handouts, lecture notes
 - ▶ Readers for exams
 - ▶ Preferential seating
 - ▶ Reduced distraction environment for testing
 - ▶ Extended time for testing
 - ▶ Use of tape recorder
 - ▶ Extra time to complete writing assignments

Questions and Comments

- ▶ What questions do you have?
- ▶ What methods have you used?

Office of Disability Services

- ▶ If you have questions or concerns, a student has self-disclosed as having a disability to you, or you need to schedule extended time testing in the LSC for a student, please do not hesitate to contact me.
- ▶ Coordinator of Disability Services, Erin Schlauch
- ▶ Extension: 6790
- ▶ Email: egschlauch@midsouthcc.edu