

Title: Accommodations

Accommodations are changes or adaptations to course activities, assessments, or environment that facilitate the engagement and success of disabled students. (Accommodations are also useful for jobs!)

What are common accommodations?

- Extra time on exams, quizzes, tests.
- A note-taker in the classroom.
- Additional technology including a laptop or recorder, for example.
- A scribe to write or type answers.
- No penalties for absences.
- A distraction-free test environment.
- The ability to leave the room any time.
- Alternative exam formats.
- An assistant to do some lab stuff.
- A scanner to scan materials.
- Flexible deadlines.
- Summaries of meetings sent to you.
- Working from home.
- Zooming into classes.
- Alternative work hours.
- Equipment including soft-touch pipetters or ergonomic chairs, for example.

What are myths about accommodations?

MYTH: Some people think accommodations are an unfair advantage.

REALITY: This is not true - disabled students deserve accommodations

MYTH: Some people think disabled students are lying or cheating.

REALITY: The number of students who lie to get accommodations is almost zero.

MYTH: Some people think students need to earn accommodations or they can be withheld.

REALITY: As long as students file for accommodations, they are entitled to accommodations. A professor or TA cannot decide if accommodations are reasonable.

To get accommodations, students need to: 1) visit with a doctor to get diagnosis, 2) get testing to show diagnosis (sometimes every few years), 3) get doctor to write a letter outlining accommodations, 4) register with University Disability Services Office every semester. These steps take time and money – it's a big burden!