An Introduction to Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)

SSD’s primary role is to ensure students with disabilities have equal access to their academic experience at The University of Texas at Austin. SSD also consults with other campus offices and departments to facilitate access and inclusion in all aspects of campus life.

SSD works with students with a broad range of disabilities including:

- AD/HD
- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- Learning Disabilities
- Medical Conditions (diabetes, migraines, epilepsy, etc.)
- Mobility Disabilities
- Psychological/ Mental Health Conditions
- Temporary (broken bones, concussion, etc)
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Visual Disabilities

Students who have questions about whether their condition qualifies as a disability are encouraged to contact SSD. Details of a student’s disability are kept confidential within the SSD office.

SSD determines eligibility and approves academic accommodations that may include:

- Extended time on exams
- Reduced distraction testing environment
- Copy of notes and/or slides
- Permission to arrive late/leave early
- Permission to step out of class
- Flexible attendance
- Flexible deadlines
- Preferential seating

Accommodations cannot change the essential requirements of a course, program or degree. SSD staff are available to consult with instructors regarding any questions or concerns about accommodations.

Students should notify instructors of their need for accommodations via an Accommodation Letter, provided by SSD. Students and instructors should meet to discuss the approved accommodations and coordinate how they will be provided within the context of each course.

SSD also offers the following supports and services to students:

- Course load reduction (non-academic drop, no ‘Q’ penalty) and maintain full-time status
- Computer lab with assistive technology (Kurzweil, ZoomText, Dragon)
- Walk-in hours for consultation/problem-solving (Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.)
- Referrals and potential funding for disability evaluation/testing

The University of Texas at Austin is required to provide equal access by three federal laws:

- The Rehabilitation Act of 1973,
- The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act of 2008

Faculty and staff play a vital role in ensuring compliance by accommodating students with disabilities. SSD is available to consult with faculty or staff about how to accommodate or work with a student with a disability.

Additional resources are available on the faculty/staff section of the SSD website:

http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/facultystaff/

For more information:

Services for Students with Disabilities

PHONE: 512-471-6259  VIDEO PHONE: 512-410-6644
EMAIL: ssd@austin.utexas.edu
WEB: http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/
ON CAMPUS: Student Services Building (SSB) 4.206
### What You Need to Know About Access and Accommodations

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<th>• All facilities, programs and services at UT should be accessible to people with disabilities. In some cases, individualized accommodations might be necessary to ensure people with disabilities have full access to every part of their campus experience.</th>
<th>• Accommodations are designed to provide students with equal access and reduce the barriers they may face because of their disability. Accommodations “level the playing field” and are not special treatment or an unfair advantage.</th>
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<td>• Students with disabilities should be treated with the same respect and held to the same academic standards and expectations as any other student. Accommodations do not change the expectations or requirements of courses, programs or degrees.</td>
<td>• Students with disabilities can request accommodations not only in academic settings but also in dining and housing facilities, student activities and employment. Students have a right to equal access and the ability to fully participate in every aspect of campus life.</td>
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<td>• The details of a student’s disability are private. While students must disclose the specifics of their disability to SSD, they do not have to disclose to instructors, advisors, etc. and disability status is not noted on transcripts or academic records. Treat disability information which has been disclosed to you as confidential.</td>
<td>• The rights of people with disabilities are protected under federal law. People with disabilities are considered a minority group and should be valued for their contributions to our diverse campus community. At UT, disability is seen as an aspect of diversity.</td>
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<td>• More than 90% of students using accommodations have “invisible disabilities” which means you may not be able to see their disability. Do not question or doubt the presence of a disability just because it is not apparent.</td>
<td>• Each member of the UT community plays a role in creating an accessible and inclusive environment at UT. It is essential for faculty and staff to consider accessibility as they develop, plan and implement programs, classes, activities, etc.</td>
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<td>• Students who disclose a disability should be referred to the SSD office to learn what resources and supports are available to them. Faculty and staff are responsible for informing students about the availability of accommodations through SSD.</td>
<td>• SSD is available to provide disability-related training to offices, departments and organizations on campus. Educational resources and online modules are also available on the SSD Outreach page of our website: <a href="http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/outreach-2/">http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/outreach-2/</a></td>
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If you have additional questions about access or accommodations at UT please contact Services for Students with Disability.

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