



An Introduction to Disability and Access (D&A)

D&A's primary role is to ensure students with disabilities have equal access to their academic experience at The University of Texas at Austin. As part of this effort, D&A also provides trainings and consults with UT campus offices and departments to facilitate access and inclusion in all aspects of campus life.

D&A works with students with a broad range of disabilities including:

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

Students who have questions about whether their condition qualifies as a disability are encouraged to contact D&A. Details of a student's disability are kept confidential within the D&A office. Students must submit disability documentation and complete an intake appointment to [register with D&A](#) for academic accommodation.

D&A works with students to approve academic accommodations that may include:

- Extended time on exams
- Reduced distraction testing environment
- Use of computer for notetaking and/or essay exams
- Copy of notes and/or slides
- Breaks during class or exams
- Flexibility with attendance
- Flexibility with deadlines

More information about [D&A Accommodations and Services](#) is available on the D&A website.

Accommodations cannot change the essential requirements of a course, program or degree. Students should notify instructors of their need for accommodations via an Accommodation Letter, provided by D&A. Students and instructors

must discuss the approved accommodations and coordinate how they will be provided within the context of each course. D&A staff are available to address student or instructor questions or concerns regarding accommodations.

D&A also offers the following supports and services to students:

- Course load reduction (full time status, non-academic drop)
- Computer lab with assistive technology (Kurzweil, ZoomText)
- Drop-In hours for consultation/problem-solving
- Referrals and potential funding for disability evaluation/testing
- Disability-specific scholarships
- Student groups and events

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 and providing access by accommodating students with disabilities. D&A is available to consult with faculty or staff who have questions about how to accommodate or work with a student with a disability.

Additional resources are also available on the [faculty/staff section](#) of the D&A website.

For more information:

Disability and Access

- **PHONE:** (512) 471-6259
- **EMAIL:** access@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

- 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - The details of a student's disability are private. While students must disclose the specifics of their disability to D&A, they do not have to disclose to instructors, advisors, etc. Treat disability information which has been disclosed to you as confidential.
 - The rights of people with disabilities are protected under federal law. People with disabilities are considered a minority group and are valued for their contributions to our diverse campus community. At UT, disability is considered an important part of our campus diversity.
- More than 90% of students using accommodations have "invisible disabilities" which means you cannot see their disability. Invisible disabilities can include ADHD, Autism, Hearing Disabilities, Learning Disabilities, Medical Conditions, Mental Health Conditions or Visual Disabilities. Do not question or doubt the presence of a disability just because it is not apparent.
 - 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.
 - Students who disclose a disability should be referred to the D&A 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 D&A.
 - D&A is available to provide disability-related training to offices, departments and organizations on campus. Educational resources and online modules are also available on the D&A Outreach page of the website: <http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/outreach-2/>

If you have additional questions about access or accommodations at UT please contact Disability and Access.

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