

Disability Support Services

SUNY Upstate Medical University values diversity and strives to cultivate healthcare professionals that reflect the national population, including individuals with disabilities. We are committed to providing an environment that supports our students, creates equal access and promotes student success.

PROCEDURE FOR REQUESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations and services are provided for students with disabilities to provide equal access to educational programs and services in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended in 2008, and Upstate Medical University policy. The Disability Support Services Office (a subsection of our Student Success Center) facilitates the provision of services and accommodations for students. Accommodations are determined on an individual basis.

THE ADMISSION PROCESS

The admission process and criteria are the same for all students applying to Upstate Medical University. Disability status will not be a consideration in admission decisions.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND SERVICES

A diagnosis alone does not qualify you for accommodations. The existence of an impairment that substantially limits a major life activity, the current impact of your impairment and how it affects your ability to function in an academic setting, and a rationale and objective basis for the requested accommodations are necessary to determine whether or not accommodations are reasonable. Upstate Medical University is required to provide appropriate academic adjustments necessary to ensure it does not discriminate on the basis of a disability. These accommodations may differ from those provided previously. Frequent accommodations include those for testing, classroom and clinical activities, however reasonable accommodations are determined on an individual basis.

SUBMITTING DOCUMENTATION

Documentation may be submitted to the Disability Support Services Office after you have been admitted to the University. Prospective students wishing to have a conversation about specific circumstances prior to acceptance/matriculation may contact our office directly. All students seeking assistance from the DSS office must self-disclose the presence of a specific disability. In order to receive services, appropriate documentation complete with diagnosis and stated specific limitations must be provided. Students are encouraged to self-disclose prior to their arrival on campus. The sooner the Disability Support Services Office is aware of accommodative needs, the better prepared the University is for your arrival and the start of your classes.

DOCUMENTATION GUIDELINES

We require an information intake form as well as specific documentation for each category of disability. Please refer to our website (www.upstate.edu/currentstudents) to obtain the appropriate paperwork. If you cannot access the web, contact the Student Success Center at 315-464-8855 and we will send you the appropriate forms. In order for us to determine if a student's condition meets the standard defined by the law, an evaluative intake interview will be conducted with the student and all additional documentation supplied will be reviewed. All decisions are made on a case-by-case basis and any additional information requested following the intake interview will be used to determine the current functional limitations caused by the disability and reasonable modifications in an academic or residential setting.

Decisions made by the Disability Support Services Office may not translate to other institutions or be applicable for high-stakes or licensure exams such as the USMLE step exams, GRE, MCAT, etc.

Disability Support Services
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