

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is a disability?

A disability is a physical, sensory, cognitive, or psychological condition that substantially limits one or more major life activities (e.g. learning, hearing, seeing). Categories of disability include:

- ADD/ADHD
- Mental Health – Including, but not limited to: depression, anxiety, bipolar, panic disorder, eating disorder, narcolepsy, Tourette's
- Medical Health – Including, but not limited to: Crohn's, diabetes, epilepsy, fibromyalgia, cystic fibrosis, migraines, multiple sclerosis
- Learning – Including, but not limited to: disorders of written expression, reading, mathematics, expressive language
- Physical/mobility – including, but not limited to: temporary injury, paralysis, scoliosis, muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, arthritis, spinal injury
- Visual – including, but not limited to: macular degeneration, cataracts, blindness, glaucoma
- Hearing – including, but not limited to: Deaf, hearing impaired, Meniere's disease
- Other: Speech, TBI, Autism spectrum – may include stuttering, traumatic or mild brain injury, autism spectrum disorders

The disability must be documented by a qualified physician or other licensed professional in a field related to the disability. Since each disability is unique, guidelines for what constitutes appropriate documentation for a particular disability are available here: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/students/>. Students who would like to inquire about the availability of services based on their physical, sensory, cognitive, or psychological condition are encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC).

### 2. How do I get started?

Students with disabilities who would like to request services must register with the DRC in order to receive academic accommodations. Please call (352) 392-8565 to schedule an intake appointment. Please bring documentation of disability to the appointment. Students who disclose a disability on their admission application are not automatically registered with the DRC and will need to provide the DRC with a copy of their documentation. All students must meet with a DRC staff member to arrange their accommodations.

### 3. How will a decision be made about my accommodations?

During the intake appointment with the DRC, a DRC-staff member will review your documentation. Students should be prepared to discuss the impact of their disability and their history of accommodation. Together, this information will help the DRC staff member determine reasonable accommodations.

**4. What are some examples of accommodations offered by the DRC?**

Some typical accommodations offered by the DRC include note-taking services, extended exam time, low distraction exam setting, alternative format textbooks, priority registration, and reduced course load. A more complete list of possible accommodations can be found here:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/students/accommodations>

**5. How will I communicate my accommodation needs to my instructors?**

Students who require academic accommodations will communicate their accommodation needs to their instructors through accommodation letters provided by the DRC. It is suggested that students provide their accommodation letters to their instructors within the first two weeks of class each semester and discuss their accommodation needs with them. The specific disability will not be disclosed in the letter, and students are not obligated to tell their instructors why they are registered with the DRC. If an instructor seems concerned or resistant about implementing the accommodations, ask him/her to contact the DRC.

**6. Are accommodations available to students in on-line or distance learning courses?**

Yes, academic accommodations are available to all currently enrolled students including students enrolled in on-line or distance learning programs.

The registration process for distance learning students is similar to the process for Gainesville-based students. Please refer to questions 2-4 above. Intake appointments via phone, Skype, and FaceTime are available. Additional information to support the registration process for distance learning students can be found here: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/students/how-to-get-started> (Undergraduate, Graduate, Professional, and Non-Degree Seeking Distance Learning Students).

As a distance learning student, it will be important for you to be aware of the following regarding the facilitation of your accommodations:

- How you will receive your accommodation letters
- How you will deliver your accommodation letters to your instructors
- How you will discuss your accommodations with your instructors
- How you will coordinate your accommodations with your instructors

**7. What if I have concerns with my instructor implementing my accommodations?**

Students are responsible for contacting the DRC if their accommodations are not implemented in a timely and effective manner or if other issues or problems arise. Upon notification, the DRC will work with the student and appropriate University personnel in an attempt to resolve the concern. If the student feels the concern was not satisfactorily resolved, or if further attention is needed, they should schedule an appointment with the DRC Director.

**8. What if I need modifications to the accommodations arranged through the DRC?**

Students who feel that their accommodations are not effective or need to be modified in order to meet the unique demands of specific courses should contact the DRC and schedule an appointment to discuss modifying current accommodations. It is essential that students and the DRC work together in making a decision to modify any accommodations. If accommodations are modified, students will need to generate new accommodation letters and deliver them to their instructors again in order to communicate the change.

**9. Are course substitutions available?**

Yes, the DRC processes petitions for foreign language and math course substitutions for students with diagnosed disabilities that directly impact their ability to be successful in these courses. Students remain responsible for all courses required by their academic major. Petition packets are located at:

Foreign language - [https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/drc/fls\\_degree\\_packet\\_2011.pdf](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/drc/fls_degree_packet_2011.pdf)

Math - [https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/drc/math\\_sub\\_packet\\_2011.pdf](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/drc/math_sub_packet_2011.pdf)

**10. What additional services are available to support students with disabilities?**

Learning strategy/Coaching sessions are available to registered DRC students to provide educational and solution-focused support in a 1:1 setting. Possible topics could include: learning strategies, test-taking strategies, coping skills for stress management, transitioning to college. For distance learning students, these sessions can be offered via phone, Skype, or FaceTime.

Facilitated Groups are available to provide similar support in a group setting. A Sakai-based on-line discussion group is available to support distance learning students or students who are unable to attend groups. Additional information about these services can be found here:

<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/students/strategy-sessions-groups>.

**11. Do I have to maintain a 12 credit hour per semester course load in order to be considered a full-time student?**

Registered students who cannot carry a 12 credit hour course load due to disability can be granted a reduced course load and still be considered a full-time student. Follow this link for more information: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/drc/reducedcourseload.pdf>

**12. What assistive technology is offered at the DRC?**

The DRC offers students the use of a computer lab, which has a wide range of assistive technology. To receive a demonstration or training on the use of available assistive software or hardware, schedule an appointment with a DRC Assistive Technology Lab Assistant.

**13. Will graduate schools or employers know that I used disability services in college?**

Neither your transcript nor your diploma will indicate that you were registered with the DRC. A graduate school, professional school, or employer will not know you have a disability or accessed accommodations unless you disclose that information.

**14. What other resources are available in the campus and local community?**

Campus resources: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/drc/campus-resources-6-20-2011.pdf>

Community resources: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/drc/community-resourcse-6-20-2011.pdf>

**15. What services are available if I sustain a temporary disability?**

Although temporary disabilities are not covered under federal disability laws, services may be provided on an as-needed basis. Services such as note-taking or scribes can be provided as accommodations through the DRC. If your disability impacts mobility, please contact Transportation and Parking's Gator Lift Service: <http://www.parking.ufl.edu/subpages/gatorlift.html>.