

DETERMINING ACCOMMODATIONS

Once the application and documentation are submitted, they will be reviewed by SAS. *Incomplete applications are not accepted.* The student will be notified if any documentation is missing and will be asked to submit additional documentation to meet the requirements. *The cost for obtaining appropriate documentation is the student's responsibility.*

Once the documentation requirements are met and the application is complete, the student will meet with an SAS consultant for a collaborative interview. During the interview, the student will be asked to provide information about his/her disability experience, barriers to learning, and effective/ineffective prior accommodations. Appropriate accommodations are then determined based on an interactive process between the student and the SAS consultant.

The student may be eligible for one or more of the following accommodations:

- Notetaking assistance
- Audio recording of lectures
- Breaks as needed

- Technological aids, e.g., speech recognition software, OCR software, alternative computer input device)
- Adjustable tables
- Access to classrooms, labs, activities, internships, and other resources
- Exam adaptations, e.g., extended time to take exams, distraction reduced setting, use of computer

Accommodations are drafted into an official letter, an Academic Accommodation Agreement (AAA). The AAA is submitted by the student to each professor every semester, officially informing the professor of the approved accommodations. Professors then confirm the accommodations, thereby agreeing to provide them to the student. Once the accommodations are confirmed, the student can use them.

Accommodations are necessary to ensure complete access to, and full participation in, the educational process. Academic standards cannot be lowered nor can the essential nature of the course or degree requirements be altered.



Division of Student Affairs
Florida Atlantic University

Accommodating Students with a Physical Impairment

Boca Raton Campus, SU 80, Room 133
561.297.3880
Fax: 561.297.2184
TTY: 711

Broward Campuses, LA Room 131
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Fax: 954.236.1123
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Northern Campuses, SR Room 111F
561.799.8585
Fax: 561.799.8819
TTY: 711

www.fau.edu/sas

*Alternate format is available upon request

PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENTS

A physical impairment is a disability which substantially limits the physical function of limbs or fine or gross motor abilities. These limitations may impact strength, speed, endurance, coordination, manual dexterity and overall mobility. Cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, paralysis, stroke, arthritis, amputation, and carpal tunnel syndrome are all examples of physical impairments. Medical conditions such as autoimmune illnesses, HIV/AIDS, active sickle cell disease, cancer, cystic fibrosis, and respiratory/cardiac diseases may consequently impair physical functioning.

ACCESSIBILITY

Physical access to classrooms is a major concern for students with physical impairment. The student must learn routes to and from classes that do not present barriers. Barriers may include: stairs, a curb, a narrow walkway, a heavy door, or a vehicle blocking a ramp. Those who fatigue easily or who use wheelchairs, braces, crutches, canes, or prostheses may have difficulty ambulating, especially with the time constraints of class schedules. Some students may have difficulty sitting for extended periods of time. Occasional lateness or absences may be caused by public transportation delays, inclement weather, or elevator or wheelchair breakdown. Most students will be aware of time constraints and will schedule classes accordingly.

REGISTERING WITH STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES (SAS)

To be eligible for academic accommodations at FAU, a student must apply for services with SAS. **There are two steps to apply for services:**

1. Register with SAS by completing an Application for Academic Accommodations. Applications can be found at:

<https://clockwork.fau.edu/ClockWork/user/intake/default.aspx>.

2. Provide appropriate documentation. Following are documentation requirements.

** Documentation on prescription pad is not accepted. IEPs/504 plans are not acceptable as documentation. Documentation requirements are firm.*

Documentation Requirements

Documentation must:

- be either a medical report or practitioner's letter, signed and dated on official letterhead, including the clinician's credentials.
- include a diagnosis made by a practitioner qualified to make this diagnosis, such as a medical doctor with an appropriate specialty.

- state the specific diagnosis, the anticipated effects or functional limitations as they impact academics, and suggestions for accommodations.
- clearly establish a link between the recommended or requested accommodations and the functional limitations of the condition.
- reference an evaluation conducted within the last two years; however, SAS reserves the right to make modifications to this time frame.

If a housing accommodation is requested due to a physical impairment, the following should be included in the documentation, in addition to the above documentation requirements:

- Explanation of how the condition relates to request for a housing accommodation. Show **direct link** established between functional limitations of the physical impairment and housing accommodation requested.
- A clear statement of specific housing accommodation recommendation resulting from impairment.

** Please refer to the SAS Housing brochure for more information:*

<http://www.fau.edu/sas/Brochures.php>.

FAU is unable to provide transportation or personal care attendants for students with physical impairments. Wheelchairs can be borrowed from SAS, based on availability.