Faculty & Staff

Faculty must provide accommodations for students with disabilities if the student provides a letter from SDS verifying the student's eligibility. However, if the faculty member disagrees with the recommended accommodation, or is aware of course-specific factors that have bearing on the accommodation, s/he must offer alternatives to the student and should also consult with SDS.

Faculty can expect that a student requesting accommodations will provide a letter of verification from SDS and make the accommodation request in a timely fashion. In most cases, two weeks is the most appropriate period of notice. It is helpful for faculty to confirm accommodation arrangements in writing. Since students with disabilities are often dealing with issues that can be very sensitive, it is important to be respectful of their rights to privacy.

It is standard practice for SDS staff to share information only with those who have a "legitimate educational interest" and for whom the student has given written consent. As a result, on occasion an instructor may make inquiries regarding a student with a disability with the good intent to provide assistance, and SDS staff person will be unable to respond until the student gives consent. In addition, it is helpful to remember that most students prefer to discuss their disability-related needs with faculty in a private and confidential manner.

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