Student Accommodations

Although accommodation needs vary between individuals, there are some typical accommodations for students with disabilities. These include: academic support services (e.g. notetaking assistance), electronic format materials, assistive technology including reading software, extended time for exams and assessments, adaptive equipment, reduced course load, and in some cases, alteration of exam format. For all disabilities, accommodations are determined by the resulting functional limitations of each individual.

For example, if a student's documentation of a learning disability indicates that significant delays in information processing have resulted in significantly slow reading rate, an appropriate accommodation would be to allow for extended time, typically time-and-a-half or double time, on exams. The amount of extra time recommended by SDS is based on consideration of what constitutes a "reasonable" accommodation.

Determining an accommodation for a student in a specific context is not an exact science. For the benefit of both the student and the faculty member, a recommendation is made based on the SDS Director's professional judgment of the individual student's need. The recommendation is also consistent with recognized standards within the field that represent a "reasonable" accommodation.

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