

## **Accessibility for Students with a Disability – Policy & Procedures**

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### **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 This policy aims to ensure that all students with disabilities have equitable access to the physical facilities and environments of the university. By promoting a barrier-free campus, we strive to create an inclusive and supportive learning environment that fosters the academic success and well-being of all students.

### **2.0 Scope**

- 2.1 This policy covers all university campuses, buildings, facilities, and outdoor spaces. It applies to all students with disabilities, whether permanent or temporary, and encompasses physical, sensory, and mobility disabilities.

### **3.0 Definitions**

- 3.1 Disability - a physical, sensory, cognitive, or intellectual impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.
- 3.2 Accessibility - the design and provision of environments, products, and services that can be used by individuals with disabilities on an equal basis with others.
- 3.3 Barrier-free - design and infrastructure that eliminate physical obstacles and promote access and independence for individuals with disabilities.

### **4.0 Policy**

- 4.1 All students should have access to university facilities and services, regardless of their disabilities.
- 4.2 The university is committed to creating an inclusive and diverse community that recognizes and accommodates individual differences.
- 4.3 Physical spaces and facilities should be designed in a way that benefits everyone, regardless of their abilities.
- 4.4 Students with disabilities should be treated with respect and dignity, and their privacy and confidentiality should be maintained.
- 4.5 All stakeholders, including students, faculty, staff, and disability support services, should collaborate to ensure effective implementation of accessibility measures.
- 4.6 All new construction, renovation, and modification projects should adhere to universal design principles and relevant accessibility codes and standards.
- 4.7 Clear and accessible pathways should be provided throughout the campus.

- 4.8 Restrooms, classrooms, laboratories, libraries, recreational areas, and other facilities should be designed and equipped to accommodate individuals with disabilities.
- 4.9 Accessible parking spaces and transportation options should be available to students with disabilities.
- 4.10 Faculty, staff, and students should receive training on disability awareness and accessibility best practices.
- 4.11 The university should provide reasonable accommodations to ensure that students with disabilities can fully participate in academic and extracurricular activities. Refer to Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Policy for additional information.

## **5.0 Procedures**

- 5.1 The Wellness Center will respond to requests for accommodations and review all supporting documentation provided by students requesting accommodation. The center will collaborate with faculty, staff, and other stakeholders to implement accommodations and address barriers in the learning environment.
- 5.2 Health Clinic to assess and confirm the diagnosis or disability of the student if applicable.
- 5.3 Students with disabilities are encouraged to self-identify to the Wellness Center as early as possible before or during enrollment.
  - 5.3.1 Students must provide appropriate documentation of their disability from qualified healthcare professionals to verify their eligibility for accommodations.
- 5.4 The Wellness Center will collaborate with the student, review their documentation, and determine reasonable accommodations based on their individual needs and the nature of the disability.
  - 5.4.1 Accommodations may include, but are not limited to, accessible classroom seating, assistive technology, extended exam time, accessible course materials, and transportation assistance.
- 5.5 The university will conduct periodic accessibility reviews of its physical facilities, including classrooms, common areas, and pathways.
  - 5.5.1 If any barriers to accessibility are identified, the university will develop and implement a plan to remove or mitigate these barriers in a timely manner.
  - 5.5.2 New construction and renovations will adhere to best practices in design principles to ensure all new facilities are inclusive and barrier-free.
- 5.6 Students, faculty, and staff will be informed about the procedures for requesting and providing accommodations to ensure a cohesive and inclusive environment.

5.7 The Wellness Center will maintain open communication with students and faculty to ensure that accommodations are effective and address any issues that arise.

5.7.1 Students with disabilities will have access to ongoing support services and resources to promote their academic success and overall well-being.

5.8 The university will periodically review and update this procedure to reflect any changes in laws, regulations, or best practices.

5.8.1 Feedback from students with disabilities and relevant stakeholders will be solicited and considered in the continuous improvement of the accessibility measures.

#### **Related Policies and Documents**

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Policy

Appeals Policy

Privacy and Confidentiality Policy

Records Retention Management Policy

Student Services Access Policy