




Office for Disability Services
A Division of the Office of Equity, Access & Opportunity



Student Manual
2020-2021

Due to federal and state changes in regulations, guidance, and laws coupled with university policy changes, this manual is subject to change. Refer to the electronic copy on the institutional website for the current version.

Revised August 2020



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

PURPOSE
What we are about:
Transforming lives through education.

MISSION
What we do:
Educate students by linking knowledge to professional practice.

VISION
What we want to be:
A premier university for challenging students to enhance their global competencies and 21st century skills, for success in a diverse world.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
Where we will focus:

- Create an environment focused on *student success*. (Students)
- Grow innovative *academic programs*. (Academics)
- Optimize our *organizational capacity*. (People)
- Strengthen and increase *institutional financial sustainability*. (Finances)
- Enhance our *critical infrastructure*. (Facilities and Technology)

VALUES
How we behave – ICARE

<p>Interdependence</p> <p>We are an inclusive and caring community that emphasizes service as a foundation of success.</p>	<p>Communication</p> <p>We engage in authentic dialogue, timely exchanges of information, and fact-driven discussion, civil debate, and decision-making.</p>	<p>Accountability</p> <p>We make ethical, responsible decisions that have a high degree of integrity, are data-informed, and are results-oriented.</p>	<p>Respect</p> <p>As a portal of equal access to education and information, we model civility and compassion; we embrace diversity as an essential component of creating a rich university experience for everyone.</p>	<p>Entrepreneurship</p> <p>We prize innovation and creative thinking as hallmarks of successful participation in the global marketplace.</p>
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TIFFIN UNIVERSITY

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Tiffin University's Commitment to Equal Access and Diversity

Tiffin University ("TU" or the "University") is committed in policy and practice to providing an educational experience and environment that is equally accessible for all, including those with a documented disability, so that individuals with disabilities have equal access and opportunity to learn and achieve based on their innate abilities and are not inhibited by barriers created by the interaction between their disability and the institutional environment and/or academic requirements.

TU's Office for Disability Services supports this institutional commitment to diversity by providing educational opportunities for qualified individuals with disabilities through accessible programs and services in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. In addition, the Office serves as a resource to the University community by providing consultation and advocacy services related to compliance.

B. Overview of This Manual and the Office for Disability Services

This Manual serves as a guide to services available to individuals with disabilities at TU, and policies and procedures to be followed in accessing those services. Individuals with disabilities are strongly encouraged to read and understand the information contained in this Manual. Individuals will gain value from the content of this Manual and should familiarize themselves with its content. Alternate forms of this Manual can be obtained from the Office for Disability Services ("ODS" or the "Office") using the contact information included in the *About The Office for Disability Services* section of this Manual.

The Office for Disability Services is the primary point of contact for individuals with disabilities who need accommodations; this includes all University Departments.

C. Notices Regarding Self-Advocacy, Confidentiality, and Universal Academic and Behavioral Standards

1. **Students are expected to be Their Own Advocates.** At the college level, students must become their own disability advocates and learn to negotiate with faculty, staff, and administrators to meet their accommodation and disability needs. However, students do not have to disclose specific information about their disabilities to instructors or University administrators directly. Any questions about the appropriateness of an accommodation can be directed to ODS. Faculty and staff need to recognize that many students find disclosing their disability threatening and difficult. This is especially true of freshmen, newly diagnosed students, or students with an acquired disability who have not had to explain it at the high school level. Instructors should not make accommodations without first consulting with ODS staff, nor should instructors accept or review medical or psychological reports if offered by a student to support a request for accommodation. Further suggestions and recommendations for faculty, staff and administrators concerning their appropriate role in providing students with accommodations of disabilities is included at the end of this Manual.

⚠NOTE: *It is the obligation of the student to request a reasonable accommodation and engage in an interactive process with the University to identify one.* Failure to make a request, provide appropriate documentation, or respond to ODS staff inquiries may result in denial of an accommodation.

2. **Confidentiality is a Priority.** TU and ODS place the highest priority upon maintaining confidentiality of all personal information in its care. We are aware of the fact that individuals with disabilities still face misunderstanding and discrimination. Student records in the possession of ODS are governed under the legal requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). This law prevents release of certain student information to individuals outside the University unless explicit consent is given by the student. Note, however, that confidential information may be shared with University employees outside of ODS if deemed necessary to ensure the successful implementation of accommodations or to respond to a student grievance or appeal of a University decision about a requested accommodation. Full information about FERPA can be found on the web site of the U.S. Department of Education.

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3. **Students Granted Accommodations Still Must Adhere to University Academic and Behavioral Standards.** Students with disabilities, including those who are granted an accommodation through ODS' policies and procedures, are held to the same academic and behavioral standards as students without disabilities. This includes attendance and arriving to class on time unless specifically deemed necessary by official documentation and/or if specific situations arise. The existence of a disability, in and of itself, does not excuse behavior that is in violation of the student code of conduct. This code of conduct is located in the Student Handbook and is included in this handbook by reference. Students found in serious violation of the code of conduct may be refused future services and subject to other action as outlined in the Student Handbook.

II. ABOUT THE OFFICE FOR DISABILITY SERVICES

A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Office: 419-448-3021
 Fax: 419-443-5030
 General Business E-mail: disabilityservices@tiffin.edu

B. ADDRESS

Tiffin University
 Office for Disability Services
 A Division of the Office for Equity, Access, & Opportunity
 155 Miami Street
 Tiffin, OH 44883

The interactive [Campus Map](#)

C. HOURS OF OPERATION

Fall & Spring Semesters Monday – Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm

Summer Semester Monday - Thursday 8:00am to 5:00pm
 Friday – 8:00am to 3:00pm

D. STAFF LIST

Mrs. Juliene Huston	Coordinator for Disability Services & 508 Coordinator	hustonjr@tiffin.edu
Dr. Sharon Perry-Fantini	Vice Provost for Equity, Access & Opportunity/Title IX & 504 Coordinator	perryfantinis@tiffin.edu

E. INFORMATION FOR GUESTS WITH DISABILITIES

For information related to reasonable accommodations or answers to questions concerning access guests should contact the [Office for Disability Services](#).

III. THE REGISTRATION PROCESS

Individuals with qualifying disabilities who are interested in obtaining an accommodation from the University must follow the policies and procedures outlined in this Manual, which begins with registration with the ODS. However, individuals with disabilities are not *required* to register or to identify themselves in anyway unless they wish to receive services. Individuals requesting reasonable accommodations must provide current medical documentation of their disability and must meet with the Coordinator for Disability Services.

Definition of a Qualifying Disability. An individual has a qualifying disability if the individual has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the student's major life activities. An individual also may have protections under the law if the individual has a record or history of having such an impairment, or is regarded or misclassified as having such an impairment. Note, however, that individual must be capable of fulfilling the essential functions and requirements of the University academic programs and/or position responsibilities with or without the provision of reasonable accommodations.

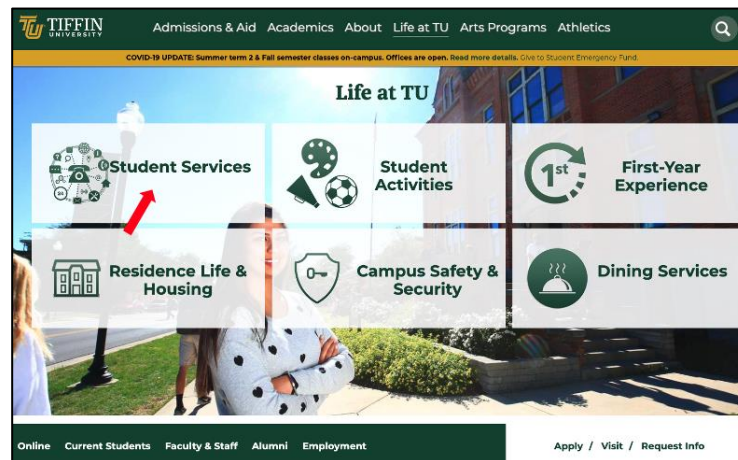
A. How to Register for Services

The process of registering with ODS includes the following:

1. Complete the online registration form by following these steps:
 - a. Go to <http://www.tiffin.edu/> and click on the **Life at TU** tab.



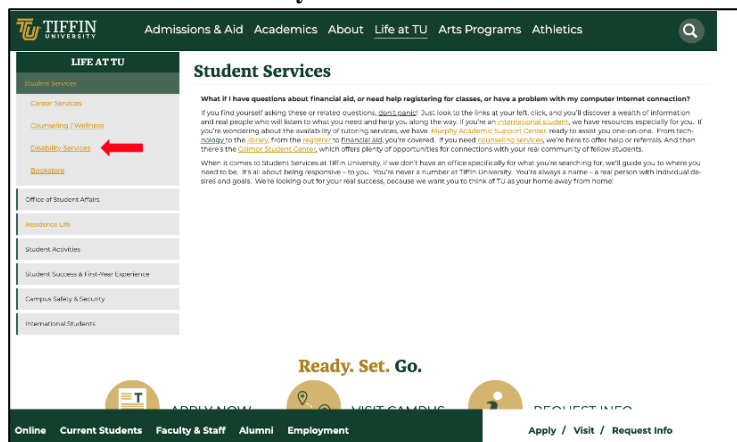
- b. Then click on the **Student Services** button.



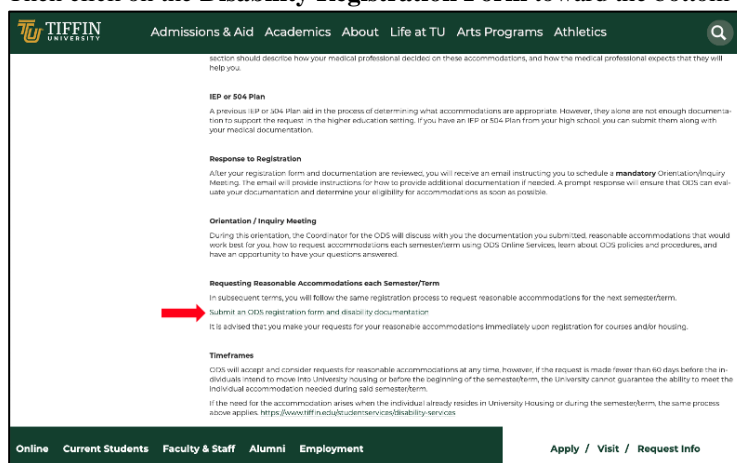
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- c. Then click on the **Disability Services** tab.



- d. Then click on the **Disability Registration Form** toward the bottom of the page.



- e. Enter your information and submit the form electronically.

Or by clicking directly on this link:

https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TiffinUniv&layout_id=42

1. **Upload appropriate documentation of your qualifying disability**, which you will be prompted to do when you are completing the application. If you are not able to upload this documentation via the online registration form, you can submit it through the mail or by fax. Please see *Disability Documentation Guidelines* for what is appropriate documentation.
2. **An Inquiry Meeting will be scheduled.** After your registration form and documentation are reviewed, you will receive an email to your TU account instructing you to schedule an Inquiry Meeting. Note: The email will provide instructions for how to provide additional documentation if needed.
3. **Complete the Inquiry Meeting.** During this appointment, the Coordinator for the ODS will discuss with you the documentation you submitted, barriers you experience in your academics and/or position, reasonable accommodations that would work best for you, and how to set up those reasonable accommodations.
4. **Reasonable Accommodation Approval Letter** will be emailed to your TU account upon approval or denial of reasonable accommodations.

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Process for:	<i>Share Only Need to Know Bases Only</i>
Students	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review application materials for determination 2. Inquiry meeting 3. Determination if requested accommodation is reasonable 4. Identify reasonable accommodations. This involves collaboration with instructors. In some instances, it may also include Housing, Facilities Management, and/or other appropriate departments. 5. Distribution of Reasonable Accommodation Approval Documentation

IV. DETERMINING REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

The Americans with Disabilities Act (1990) provides that postsecondary institutions are responsible for providing essential accommodations when a student discloses a disability. Specifically, programs are required to make reasonable adjustments or modifications to practices, policies and procedures, and to provide auxiliary aids and services for students with disabilities, unless to do so would “fundamentally alter” the nature of the programs or result in an “undue burden.” Accommodations should not compromise the essential elements of a course or curriculum; nor weaken the academic standards or integrity of a course. They merely provide an alternative way to accomplish the course objectives/requirements by eliminating or reducing disability-related barriers. They must provide a level playing field, as opposed to an unfair advantage.

A. Reasonable Accommodations Are Reviewed To Determine:

1. If there are barriers created by the interaction between the documented disability and the campus environment.
2. If there are possible reasonable accommodations that may eliminate the barriers.
3. If the individual has access to the course, program, service or activity without a reasonable accommodation.
4. If the reasonable accommodations compromise the essential elements of a course or curriculum; or weaken the academic standards or integrity of a course.

B. Disability Documentation Guidelines:

1. Accommodations are provided only to individuals who have appropriate clinical documentation of their qualifying disability on file with ODS. The medical documentation will need to be provided by a licensed medical professional that is capable of making a diagnosis. This would include the primary care physician, specialty physician, psychiatrist, or psychologist that diagnosed your disability, or that has been working with you continuously and is personally familiar with your medical history.
2. To be effective, your medical professional’s letter should include at a minimum the following information:
 - a) A statement giving your medical professional's name, contact information (address, telephone, e-mail, etc.), and describing her/his credentials, area of specialty and information about any special qualifications that she or he has for helping people with your specific type of disability, including any experience working with other students who have similar impairments.
 - b) A description of any tests, assessments and evaluations that your medical professional performed on your behalf, which identifies any records or other materials reviewed as part of the testing process;
 - c) A description of your disability-related impairments, as they relate to your ability to learn and participate in your educational program;
 - d) A description of your disability and identification of your specific diagnoses, including how you meet diagnostic criteria, and the facts and observations upon which your medical professional based the diagnosis; and
 - e) A list of accommodations that your medical professional recommends to allow you to participate fully and equally in your educational program. This section should describe how your medical professional decided on these accommodations, and how the medical professional expects that they will help you.

You should ask your medical professional to be as specific as possible in providing all of this information.

This documentation, should be sent directly from the medical care provider via the following:

Fax: 419-443-5030 Attn: Office for Disability Services

Email: disabilityservices@tiffin.edu

Mailing Address: Tiffin University

Attn: Office for Disability Services

155 Miami Street

Tiffin, Ohio 44883

All documentation will be verified by ODS staff for authenticity when received.

3. A previous IEP or 504 Plan will also aid in the process of determining what accommodations are appropriate. However, they alone are not enough documentation to support the request in the higher education setting. If you have an IEP or 504 Plan from your high school, you can submit them along with your medical documentation.

C. Accommodation Request Analysis:

In reviewing any and all accommodation requests, the following analysis is used:

1. Does the individual have a documented disability?
2. Is the individual “otherwise qualified?”
3. Is the request reasonable? (The subsequent four requirements must ALL be fulfilled for the request to be considered reasonable)
 - a) The reasonable accommodation does not fundamentally alter the nature of the program or activity.
 - b) The reasonable accommodation does not lower academic standards.
 - c) The reasonable accommodation does not present an undue financial or administrative burden on the University.
 - d) The reasonable accommodation does not pose a threat to personal or public safety.

The U.S. Department of Education (2007) has stated that reasonable accommodations are modifications or adjustments to the environment or to the way tasks are usually done that enable individuals with disabilities to have an equal opportunity to participate in an academic program or a job.

Click [APA Disability Page](http://www.apa.org/topics/disability/index.aspx) or copy and paste the following: <http://www.apa.org/topics/disability/index.aspx>.

Accommodations include a broad category of changes to the application process towards ensuring an equal opportunity to apply for program enrollment, changes that enable a student with a disability to perform the essential functions of the academic program(s), and to enjoy equal benefits and privileges of the program(s) (e.g., access to training).

⚠ NOTE: Accommodations are approved throughout the semester, but are not retroactive, thus, for example, course grades may not be changed and tests need not be re-administered, based on approval of an accommodation at a later date. Students are required to renew accommodations each semester they desire to have services.

1. ODS will accept and consider requests for a reasonable accommodation at any time, however, if the request is made fewer than 60 days before the individuals intend to move into University housing or before the beginning of the semester/term, the University cannot guarantee the ability to meet the individual accommodation need during said semester/term.
2. If the need for the accommodation arises when the individual already resides in University Housing or during the semester/term, the same process above applies.
3. Absent exceptional circumstances, the Office will attempt to respond to a student’s reasonable accommodation request within 30 business days of receipt of the original request.

V. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN ODS SERVICES

- A. Eligibility for services/accommodations from the Office for Disability Services is a separate process from University Admissions / Enrollment. Registering for services through ODS has no impact on admissions decisions, financial aid, or your eligibility to enroll in courses or for other student services.
- B. The Office for Disability Services encourages prospective students to contact the Office during the beginning stages of their college planning for Pre-Admission Services. The University's Pre-Admission Services includes a meeting with the ODS Coordinator to provide information about eligibility for academic support services and accommodations, appropriate documentation of disability, housing, dining, and transition challenges.
- C. Disclosure of a disability is voluntary. Some students may choose to disclose a disability only after the student's academic performance has been adversely affected due to the disability or if an employee receives a less than positive performance evaluation. Students who elect not to provide advance notice of their disability to the University through the ODS process may deprive themselves of opportunities to later appeal or challenge any adverse grades or other issues that arise. However, in such a case, the situation will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for resolution. Students wishing to obtain services from ODS and take advantage of the protections afforded them under the law must provide disclosure and documentation of their disability to enable the University to assess whether reasonable accommodations exist.
- D. Refer to the *Registration Process* section of this Manual for more details.

VI. COMMON SERVICES/ACCOMMODATIONS

ODS offers a wide variety of legally required services/accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Accommodations are provided to meet the requirements of the ADA and Section 504 and to equalize the opportunity for success by minimizing the impact of the disability. Accommodations provided are as varied as the many different ways people experience their disability. Individuals should also note that accommodations must be reasonable and not every request will be filled. **Tutoring services are never considered an academic "accommodation"**. However, students with a documented qualifying disability may take advantage of tutoring services that are provided to all students at TU. In addition, the University is not required to provide items that are considered personal that could be needed in accomplishing daily activities both at school and elsewhere, such as a wheelchair, hearing aid, etc.

The most common services/reasonable accommodations provided include (but are not limited to):

- A. Alternative Testing Accommodations
- B. Note-Taking Accommodations
- C. Assistive Technology
- D. Alternative Media
- E. Sign Language/Interpreting/Transcribing Services
- F. Counseling and Advocacy Services
- G. Deaf/Hard of Hearing Services
- H. Blind/Low Vision Services
- I. Housing Accommodations
- J. Service Animals
- K. Assistance Animals
- L. Service and/or Assistance Animals on Campus
- M. Other

The foregoing typical accommodations are discussed further in the following sections of the Manual. Other accommodations may be made based on a student's unique situation.

A. ALTERNATIVE TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

ODS collaborates with students and their professors to provide exam accommodations that ensure equal access. It is recommended that students notify professors of their intention to utilize testing accommodations at least a week prior to testing, in order for the professors to have adequate time prepare the test and deliver it to the Office.

1. Alternative Testing Accommodations include (but are not limited to):

- a) Extended time
 - Time and one half (50% extra time)
 - Double time (100% extra time)
- b) Distraction-reduced space
- c) Assistive technology
- d) Voice-recognition software
- e) Screen-reading software
- f) Electronic formats
- g) Word processing
- h) Reader and/or Scribe
- i) Enlarged print

2. HOURS FOR TESTING

Fall & Spring Semesters Monday – Friday 9:00am to 2:00pm

Summer Semester Monday – Thursday 9:00am to 1:00pm

These hours may be extended during the weeks of midterms and finals.

3. TESTING PROCEDURE

a) **Students Responsibilities:**

- ODS offers test proctoring in applicable testing location(s).
- Students are responsible for scheduling an appointment to complete a test or quiz at least 3 business days in advance by going to your MyTU page, or clicking [Disability Services Test Request Form](#). Failure to follow this process may result in a **delay** in completing the test or quiz in a timely manner.
- Students are expected to maintain their scheduled appointment. Failure to keep the appointment or tardiness may result in a **delay** in completing the test or quiz in a timely manner. If you are not able to take the exam due to illness or emergency, you are required to contact the professor immediately. Students are responsible for coordinating any makeup exams with their professors by obtaining written permission to reschedule.
- If for some reason you decide not to take your exam/test, you are required to notify the Office as soon as possible so that the testing space can be made available for other students.

b) **Instructor Responsibilities:**

- Instructors may also administer tests or quizzes if one is able to accommodate the student(s) as communicated on the Reasonable Accommodation Approval Letter.
- If the test or quiz is not in the office when the student arrives for the scheduled appointment there will be a **delay** in the opportunity for the student to complete the test or quiz in a timely manner.
- Instructors are required to submit the test or quiz at least 2 business days in advance in person or by emailing it to ODS with instructions on preferred method of return (email, pick-up, or interoffice mail)
- If the instructor does not approve of the test date or time, you must notify ODS within 2 business days of the proposed test.

c) **ODS Responsibilities:**

- ODS will provide all appropriate alternative testing accommodations necessary for the student to take their test.
- After receiving the Disability Services Test Proctoring Form, from the student, the office will email the professor notifying them when the test is scheduled.
- ODS will negotiate an alternative testing schedule if needed.
- The test will be returned to the professor via their preferred method.

4. **POLICIES REGARDING ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

ODS is committed to maintaining the highest academic integrity standards possible in the testing environment. To meet that goal, please note the following:

- You must schedule your exam with ODS, at least 3 business days in advance of the desired testing time.
- Students need to show their Student ID when checking in to take an exam.
- All non-testing supplies must be put into the lockers or space provided. This includes but is not limited to:
 - Backpacks
 - Jackets
 - Phones
 - Laptops
 - Any wifi enabled device
- Exam rooms are monitored by staff via closed-circuit video monitoring. Additionally, a staff member may come into the testing room at any time to perform a random integrity check.
- You can only bring in approved testing supplies.
- If you are using a computer, no external devices are allowed. The computers in the testing rooms are monitored and can be controlled if necessary.
- If you leave the building for any reason, the test is considered complete, regardless of how much of the test is complete. This includes smoke breaks.
- If you leave to go to the bathroom, you must use the one in this building and for an appropriate amount of time. You are not allowed to take anything with you, from either the locker or testing room, into the bathroom. You are also not allowed to bring anything back from the bathroom.
- If you are found to be cheating, your exam will be collected immediately, and your professor will be notified. You are held to the same Academic Integrity Standard as you are in any classroom or academic setting on campus.
 - Academic honesty is expected at all times. Cheating and/or plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, using the work of someone else and claiming it as your own without acknowledgment of the original source, using unauthorized assistance on in-class or take-home examinations, projects, papers, tests, quizzes, etc., and/or submitting the identical academic work on more than one occasion for credit without consent. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Please consult the university catalog for the university's official statement on academic honesty. Consequences for academic dishonesty will match the perceived severity of the offense by the professor.
- All exams are returned to instructors by ODS staff only.

5. **POP QUIZZES**

Arrangements and procedures to complete a pop quiz should be included in the early semester discussion between the student and the instructors with the assistance of the Office. If the pop quiz cannot be adequately accommodated within the classroom, the student and the instructor should follow the process for typical exam requests.

6. **SOFTWARE/ONLINE TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS**

When scheduling an appointment to take a test, students should verify the type(s) of software needed in order to complete the exam to ensure that access to the software is available in the testing areas. Additionally, professors should include any login specifications and other instructions for completion submitting the test to the Office for Disability Services. The internal testing timer in the Learning Management System (LMS) should be adjusted by the professor prior to the testing appointment to reflect any applicable time extensions.

7. **FINAL EXAMS**

Due to space and time constraints, final exams may need to be proctored at times other than when the rest of the class is completing the exam. These are typically *not* scheduled early, but rather after the rest of the class has started the test.

Be sure to schedule appointments well in advance for final exams given the high volume of test proctoring requests during finals week. This will ensure proper time and space availability for you during finals week.

B. **NOTE-TAKING ACCOMMODATIONS**

ODS provides note-taking accommodations to students who have difficulty capturing lecture materials. These notes are provided as a supplement to the classroom experience and are not provided for classes the student did not attend. It is not intended to replace regular classroom attendance or participation. If a student is not approved to receive notes through ODS and they miss class, it is their responsibility to get notes from someone else themselves.

1. **Office for Disability Services Responsibilities:**

- Review and approve reasonable accommodation requests. If approved, the Reasonable Accommodation
- Approval Letter will be emailed to the student and the relevant instructors.
- All Note-takers must complete certification training via the Office.
- Note-takers may be obtained using the following formats if deemed necessary:
 - A student in the requested class is designated as a note-taker for the course.
 - A qualified student is recruited and hired by the University through its student worker program.
- The authorized student may audio record the class via Live Scribe pen or other approved recording device.

2. **Student Responsibilities**

- Must request services at least 60 days before the beginning of the term/semester. The requests for services are processed in the order received.
- Inform ODS of any and all problems with notes, note-takers, or instructors immediately.
- Notes are for the approved individual's use only. Students are not allowed to distribute or sell the notes provided by the note-taker or instructors. Failure to comply with this policy may result in a hold on note-taking services and referral to the Office of Student Conduct/Student Affairs for disciplinary or other action.

3. **Lab Assistants**

ODS works in collaboration with the appropriate School Dean to employ lab assistants for individuals whose disability limits participation in labs for courses.

a) Lab assistants will:

- Carry and/or manipulate lab materials
- Provide verbal description for students who are blind or low vision
- Act as a scribe
- Complete lab procedures that the individual is incapable of completing based on the documented disability

b) Lab assistants will not:

- Serve as professor or tutor
- Prompt the student into carrying out a lab task
- Deviate from lab procedures and policies

 **NOTE:** *All information about lab procedures and actions are the responsibility of the student.*

C. ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

ODS works with the University's ITS department to provide authorized students with access to Assistive Technology (AT) software and hardware. Additionally, individualized training can be provided to the authorized student.

1. AT support can include (but is not limited to):

- Text-to-Speech software
- Speech-to-Text software
- Screen-reader software
- Screen-enlargement software
- Printer access for note takers
- UbiDuo
- iPads
- Livescribe Pens

Requests for alternative media *must* be made in at least 60 days prior to the beginning of the term/semester to aid in the production process. If AT equipment is checked out to a student, the student assumes financial responsibility for loss or damage to the equipment.

Students with disabilities are not required to register with ODS to use AT equipment located in areas generally accessible to the public on TU's campus. However; if students need such equipment as part of an in-class accommodation, they must follow the procedures and meet the deadlines outlined in the Registration Process section of this Manual.

D. ALTERNATIVE MEDIA

ODS provides authorized students with Alternative Media (course materials converted into an accessible format). Textbooks, electronic documents, exams, and other print materials are converted into a number of different formats, including:

- PDF with Text
- RTF (Rich Text Format)
- DOC (Word Document)
- MP3 (Audio Format)
- Paper Enlargements

Requests for alternative media *must* be made in at least 60 days prior to the beginning of the term/semester to aid in the production process. Proof of purchase or rental agreement for a textbook must be submitted in order to receive accessible formats. Students are required to notify the Office immediately if a course is dropped. Accessible materials may only be used by the approved individual and are not to be duplicated and/or redistributed.

E. SIGN LANGUAGE/INTERPRETING/TRANSCRIBING SERVICES

ODS coordinates sign language interpreting and/or transcribing services for deaf or hard-of-hearing students. These services are available for classroom and lab requirements, academic-related activities, and University events.

1. Available Resources

- ASL Interpreters
 - In the event an interpreter is not able to be present, Skype enabled VRI will be made available.
- C-print
 - Live captioning to a skype enabled device (such as an iPad)
- Closed Captioning
 - Video captioning
- Virtual Reality Interpreters (VRI)
 - Interpreters available through a skype enabled device
- UbiDuos
 - The UbiDuo is a communication device that enables communication via typed text. The device consists of two keyboards and screen devices that allow a deaf and a hearing person to carry on a conversation. The conversation can be exported to a usb.

2. Student Responsibilities

- It is the student's responsibility to review the class syllabus for information regarding field trips, extra credit opportunities and other activities that may require accommodations, and to schedule services accordingly.
- Be aware of non-academic campus activities that may require services and schedule services accordingly.
- Requests for a live interpreter should be submitted to ODS with a minimum of 10 business days advance notice by going to your MyTU page or clicking on [Interpreting Services Request Form](#). **Do not make requests directly to interpreters.** The interpreters must have prior approval from the Office before accepting assignments.
- If the student is unable to attend class or the event, they must cancel with ODS at least 3 business days before the event is scheduled to start.
- Inform ODS when interpreting/C-Print/VRI services will not be needed or if you will be arriving late to a class or scheduled appointment. After three failures to notify ODS, or notify with less than 2 hours before the scheduled event/class, that services are not needed or that you will be arriving late, then interpreting/C-Print/VRI services will be suspended until you meet with the Coordinator for Disability Services.

F. COUNSELING AND ADVOCACY SERVICES

Along with academic accommodations, ODS works directly with the Office for Career Development and the Office for Counseling and Wellness to provide counseling and advocacy services for students with disabilities in such areas as study strategies, time management, and self-advocacy skills. Additionally, ODS assists the Office for Career Development in developing career resources, disability disclosure, campus career information, and job and internship opportunities to help ease the transition from education into the workforce.

G. DEAF/HARD OF HEARING SERVICES

ODS coordinates interpreting and/or transcribing services for deaf or hard-of-hearing students. *See the section of this Manual discussing Sign Language/Interpreting/Transcribing Services for additional information, as well as the sections discussing Assistive Technology and Alternative Media.*

H. BLIND/LOW VISION SERVICES

ODS coordinates interpreting and/or transcribing services for blind/low vision students. *See* the section of this Manual discussing *Sign Language/Interpreting/Transcribing Services* for additional information, as well as the sections discussing *Assistive Technology* and *Alternative Media*.

I. HOUSING ACCOMMODATIONS

ODS coordinates with University Housing Operations for individuals requesting accommodations for on-campus housing. Housing assignments and the residential learning environment are integral parts of the educational environment. We evaluate all requests for need-based housing assignments carefully. Below is a summary of the factors reviewed:

1. Severity of the Condition

- a) Is the impact of the student's condition life threatening if the request is not met?
- b) Is there a negative health impact that may be permanent if the request is not met?
- c) Is the request an integral component of a treatment plan for the condition in question?
- d) That is the likely impact on academic performance, on social development, and/or level of comfort if the request is not met?

2. Timing of the Request

- a) Was the request made with initial housing request?
- b) Was the request made before the deadline for housing requests for the semester in question?
- c) Was the request made as soon as possible after identifying the need? (Based on date of diagnosis, receipt of housing assignment, change in status, etc.)

3. Feasibility & Availability


- a) Is space available that meets the student's needs?
- b) Can space be adapted to provide the requested configuration without creating a safety hazard (electrical load, emergency egress, etc.)?
- c) Are there other effective methods or housing configurations that would achieve similar benefits as the requested configuration?
- d) How does meeting this request impact housing commitments to other students?

J. SERVICE ANIMALS POLICY

Tiffin University (“TU” or the “University”) recognizes the importance of “Service Animals,” which are defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) as “*any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability.*”

TU is committed to allowing individuals with disabilities the use of a Service Animal on campus to facilitate their full-participation and equal access to the University’s programs and activities. TU reserves the right to amend this Policy as circumstances require. This policy applies solely to “Service Animals” as defined by the ADAAA.

A Service Animal is not a pet, but is trained to perform functions and tasks that an individual with a disability is not able to perform without assistance. Animals are considered “Service Animals” under the ADAAA, if they meet this definition, regardless of whether they have been licensed or certified by a state or local government.

 **NOTE:** *Therapy animals are not considered service animals.*

Below are basic policy guidelines for the use of Service Animals at TU:

1. A Service Animal may be excluded from a facility, including a classroom, if the animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others. However, it cannot be an *assumed* threat.
2. A Service Animal may be excluded from a facility, including a classroom, if the owner is ineffective in controlling the service animal.
3. If a Service Animal is excluded from a facility, the individual with a disability will be provided the opportunity of continuing classroom involvement, with assistance, inside the facility.
4. The Service Animal must be clean and in good health.
5. The Service Animal must be housebroken.
6. All students must abide by current city, county, and state ordinances, laws, and/or regulations pertaining to licensing, vaccination, and other requirements for Service Animals. It is the responsibility of the owner to know and understand these ordinances, laws, and regulations.
7. The owner is required to clean up after and properly dispose of the waste from the animal in a safe and sanitary manner and, when provided, must use animal relief areas designated by TU.

K. ASSISTANCE ANIMALS POLICY

Tiffin University (“TU” or the “University”) recognizes the importance of “Assistance Animals” as defined under the Fair Housing Act. TU is committed to allowing individuals with disabilities the use of an Assistance Animals as necessary to provide individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to use and enjoy University Housing. This Policy explains the specific requirements applicable to an individual’s use of an Assistance Animal in University Housing. TU reserves the right to amend this Policy as circumstances require. It is important to state any animal in University Housing falls under said policy.

Although it is the policy of TU that individuals are generally prohibited from having animals of any type in University Housing, TU will consider a request by an individual with a disability for reasonable accommodation to allow an Assistance Animal that is necessary because of a disability and is reasonable. However, no Assistance Animal may be kept in University Housing at any time prior to the individual receiving approval as a reasonable accommodation pursuant to this Policy.

1. Definitions

a) Assistance Animal

“Assistance Animals” are a category of animals that may work, provide assistance, or perform physical tasks, for an individual with a disability and/or provide necessary emotional support to an individual with a mental or psychiatric disability that alleviates one or more identified symptoms of an individual’s disability, but which are not considered Service Animals under the ADA and TU’s Service Animal Policy. Some Assistance Animals are professionally trained, but in other cases Assistance Animals provide the necessary support to individuals with disabilities without any formal training or certification. Any animal may serve a person with a disability as an Assistance Animal¹.

The question in determining if an Assistance Animal will be allowed in University Housing is whether or not the Assistance Animal is necessary because of the individual’s disability to afford the individual an equal opportunity to use and enjoy University Housing and its presence in University Housing is reasonable. However, even if the individual with a disability establishes necessity for an Assistance Animal and it is allowed in University Housing, an Assistance Animal is not permitted in other areas of the University (e.g. dining facilities, libraries, academic buildings, athletic building and facilities, classrooms, labs, individual centers, etc.).

b) Owner

The “Owner” is the individual who has requested the accommodation and has received approval to bring an Assistance Animal into University Housing.

c) Office for Disability Services

The Office for Disability Services is responsible for evaluating whether to grant or deny requests for reasonable accommodation in University Housing. In evaluating the request, the Office will consult with University Housing to determine whether the requested accommodation is necessary and reasonable. The Office collaborates with individuals, faculty, staff to ensure that individuals with disabilities have equal access to all TU programs and activities.

¹ It is important to note that animals that may be needed because of a disability may be identified by various names. For example, an individual may identify the animal as a companion animal, therapy animal, or emotional support animal.

2. **Procedures for Requesting Assistance Animals in University Housing**

- a) The individual must complete the registration process with ODS.
- b) The *Request for Information for Assistance Animals* document must be completed by a licensed medical professional and returned directly from the medical office to the Office for Disability Services only if the individual's disability is not readily apparent or known, or the disability-related need for the assistance animal is not readily apparent or known.
- c) Request that your licensed medical professional send appropriate clinical documentation supporting your request for an Assistance Animal. Please see *Disability Documentation Guidelines* for more details on what is required in the documentation.
- d) ODS will accept and consider requests for reasonable accommodation at any time, however, if the request is made fewer than 60 days before the individual intends to move into University Housing, the University cannot guarantee the ability to meet the individual's accommodation need during said semester/term.
- e) If the need for the accommodation arises when the individual already resides in University Housing, the same process above applies.
- f) Absent exceptional circumstances, the Office will attempt to respond to a student's reasonable accommodation request within 30-business days of receipt of the original request.

3. **Criteria for Determining If Presence of the Assistance Animal is Reasonable**

- a) University Housing is unique in several aspects including the mandatory assignment of roommates for many individuals and the mandate that individuals must share a room or suite in certain residence halls. To ensure that the presence of Assistance Animals is not an undue administrative burden or fundamental alteration of University Housing, TU reserves the right to assign an individual with an Assistance Animal to a single room without a roommate.
- b) For all requests for Assistance Animals, ODS shall nonetheless consult with University Housing Operations in making a determination on a case-by-case basis of whether the presence of an Assistance Animal is reasonable. A request for an Assistance Animal may be denied as unreasonable if the presence of the animal: (1) imposes an undue financial and/or administrative burden; (2) fundamentally alters University housing policies; and/or (3) poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others or would cause substantial property damage to the property of others, including University property, that cannot be reduced or eliminated by another reasonable accommodation.
- c) TU may consider the following factors, among others, as evidence in determining whether the presence of the animal is reasonable or in the making of housing assignments for individuals with Assistance Animals:
 - The animal's presence otherwise violates individuals' right to peace and quiet enjoyment;
 - The animal is not housebroken or is unable to live with others in a reasonable manner;
 - The animal's vaccinations are not up-to-date;
 - The animal poses or has posed in the past a direct threat to the individual or others such as aggressive behavior towards or injuring the individual or others; or
 - The animal causes or has caused excessive damage to housing beyond reasonable wear and tear.
- d) TU will not limit room assignments for individuals with Assistance Animals to any particular building(s) because the individual needs an Assistance Animal because of a disability.

L. SERVICE AND/OR ASSISTANCE ANIMALS ON CAMPUS

1. Access to University Facilities

- a) A Service Animal may go wherever on campus with its Owner.
- b) An Assistance Animal must be contained within the privately assigned individual living accommodations (e.g., room, suite, or apartment) except to the extent the individual is taking the animal out for natural relief in designated areas. When an Assistance Animal is outside the private individual living accommodations, it must be in an animal carrier or controlled by a leash or harness. Assistance Animals are not allowed in any University facilities other than University residence halls to which the individual is assigned.

2. Dominion and Control

Service and/or Assistance Animals must be properly housed and restrained or otherwise under the dominion and control of the Owner at all times. No Owner shall permit the animal to go loose or run at large. If an animal is found running at large, the animal is subject to capture and confinement and immediate removal from University Housing.

3. Individual's Responsibilities for Service and/or Assistance Animals living in University Housing.

If the ODS grants an individual's request to live with a Service and/or Assistance Animal, the individual is solely responsible for the custody and care of the animal and must meet the following requirements:

- a) The Owner must abide by current city, county, and state ordinances, laws, and/or regulations pertaining to licensing, vaccination, and other requirements for animals. It is the individual's responsibility to know and understand these ordinances, laws, and regulations. The University has the right to require documentation of compliance with such ordinances, laws, and/or regulations, which may include a vaccination certificate (N/A for Service Animals). The University reserves the right to request documentation showing that the animal has been licensed (N/A for Service Animals).
- b) The Owner is required to clean up after and properly dispose of the animal's waste in a safe and sanitary manner and, when provided, must use animal relief areas designated by TU.
- c) The Owner is required to ensure the animal is well cared for at all times. Any evidence of mistreatment or abuse may result in immediate removal of the animal and/or discipline for the individual.
- d) TU will not ask for or require an individual with a disability to pay a fee or surcharge for an approved animal. However, the individual is liable for injuries inflicted to other individual(s) on campus.
- e) An individual with a disability may be charged for any damage caused by their animal beyond reasonable wear and tear to the same extent that the University charges other individuals for damages beyond reasonable wear and tear. The Owner's living accommodations may also be inspected for fleas, ticks or other pests if necessary as part of the University's standard or routine inspections. If fleas, ticks or other pests are detected through inspection, the residence will be treated using approved fumigation methods by a University- approved pest control service. The Owner will be billed for the expense of any pest treatment above and beyond standard pest management in the residence facilities. The University shall have the right to bill the individual's account for unmet obligations under this provision.
- f) The Owner must fully cooperate with University personnel with regard to meeting the terms of this Policy and developing procedures for care of the animal (e.g., cleaning the animal, feeding/watering the animal, designating an outdoor relief area, disposing of feces, etc.). The individual is not permitted to use University facilities to clean the animal.

Due to federal and state changes in regulations, guidance, and laws coupled with university policy changes, this manual is subject to change. Refer to the electronic copy on the institutional website for the current version.

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- g) Service and/or Assistance Animals may not be left overnight in University Housing to be cared for by any individual other than the Owner. If the Owner is to be absent from his/her residence hall overnight or longer, the animal must accompany the Owner. The Owner is responsible for ensuring that the Assistance Animal is contained, as appropriate, when the Owner is not present during the day while attending classes or other activities.
- h) The Owner agrees to abide by all equally applicable residential policies that are unrelated to the individual's disability such as assuring that the animal does not unduly interfere with the routine activities of the residence or cause difficulties for individuals who reside there.
- i) The animal is allowed in University Housing only as long as it is necessary because of the Owner's disability. The Owner must notify ODS in writing if the Assistance Animal is no longer needed or is no longer in residence. To replace an Assistance Animal, the new animal must be necessary because of the Owner's disability and the Owner must follow the procedures in this Policy when requesting permission to have a different animal in University Housing.
- j) TU personnel are ***not*** required to provide care or food for any Service and/or Assistance Animal including, but not limited to, removing the animal during emergency evacuation for events such as a fire alarm. Emergency personnel will determine whether to remove the animal and will not be held responsible for the care, damage to, or loss of the animal.
- k) The individual must provide written consent for ODS to disclose information regarding the request for and presence of the Service and/or Assistance Animal to those individuals who may be impacted by the presence of the animal including, but not limited to, Residence Life personnel and potential and/or actual roommate(s)/neighbor(s). Such information shall be limited to information related to the animal and shall not include information related to the individual's disability, other than as otherwise disclosed, on a need-to-know basis, as part of the individual's request for a reasonable accommodation of his or her disability, if any such request has been made and required consultation with University Housing Operations or Residence Life personnel.

4. **Removal of Service and/or Assistance Animals from University Housing**

The University may require the individual to remove the animal from University housing if:

- a) The animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others or causes substantial property damage to the property of others – not on speculation or fear about the harm or damages an animal may cause;
- b) The presence of the animal results in a fundamental alteration of a University program; or
- c) The Owner does not comply with the Responsibilities outlined in this policy.

The University will base such determinations upon the consideration of the behavior of the particular animal at issue, and not on speculation or fear about the harm or damages an animal may cause. Any removal of the animal will be done in consultation with the Office for Disability Services, Housing Operations, and Student Conduct and may be appealed to the Vice Provost for Equity, Access, & Opportunity / 504 Coordinator following the procedure set forth in [Tiffin University Equal Opportunity, Harassment, & Nondiscrimination Policy & Procedures](#) manual. The Owner will be afforded all rights of due process and appeal as outlined in that process.

Should the Service and/or Assistance Animal be removed from the premises for any reason, the Owner is expected to fulfill his/her housing obligations for the remainder of the housing contract.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SERVICE AND/OR ASSISTANCE ANIMALS ON CAMPUS POLICY
AND RELEASE OF INFORMATION CONSENT FORM**

I have read and understand the Service and/or Assistance Animals on Campus Policy and I agree to abide by the requirements in the Policy. I understand that if I fail to meet the requirements set forth in the Policy, TU has the right to remove the Service and/or Assistance Animal and I will be nonetheless required to fulfill my housing, academic, and all other obligations for the remainder of the housing contract.

I furthermore give permission to the Office for Disability Services to disclose to others impacted by the presence of my Service and/or Assistance Animal (e.g., Residence Life staff, potential and/or actual roommate(s)/neighbor(s)) that I will be living with an animal as an accommodation. I understand that this information will be shared with the intent of preparing for the presence of the Service and/or Assistance Animal and/or resolving any potential issues associated with the presence of the Service and/or Assistance animal.

I further recognize that the presence of the Service and/or Assistance Animal may be noticed by others visiting or residing in University Housing and agree that staff may acknowledge the presence of the animal, and explain that under certain circumstances Service and/or Assistance Animals are permitted for persons with disabilities.

Individual's Signature

Date

Disability Services Representative

Date

Housing Operations Representative

Date

M. OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS

1. PRIORITY REGISTRATION

ODS coordinates Priority Registration in collaboration with the Office for Registration & Records for individuals with approval for a limited number of circumstances. This may include, but is not limited to, individuals who require:

- Accessible rooms
- Sign language interpreting
- Specific schedule due to medical and health reasons

Priority Registration allows individuals to register for classes with seniors (first availability option for registration).

2. ACCESSIBLE FURNITURE

ODS coordinates requests in collaboration with the Facilities Office in providing accessible furniture (i.e. chairs, tables, podiums, footstools, etc.) for individuals.

Requests for accommodations should be made through the ODS at a minimum of 60 days before the start of the term/semester. Requests made during the semester/term may take a substantial amount of time to fulfill, delaying the provision of the accommodation.

3. RELOCATION OF CLASS

ODS coordinates relocation of classes and/or individual class schedules in collaboration with the Office for Registration & Records to accommodate individuals with disabilities into more accessible facilities or by using online delivery format.

Requests to relocate a classroom should be made 60 days prior to the beginning of a semester/term for consideration.

4. PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANTS

The University is dedicated to providing equal access to all students. The University understands, welcomes, and acknowledges that some individuals may require a Personal Care Attendant (PCA) while in the learning environment.

Students needing or interested in PCA services should note that:

- The University does not provide PCA services
- PCA services are hired, paid and employed by the individual seeking the service
- A PCA may not serve as lab assistants and are only permitted in the classroom with the individual the PCA is assisting
- A PCA is required to abide by all University policies and procedures
- A PCA may not be enrolled in or earn academic credit for a class for which they are providing assistance to someone
- A PCA must be registered with the Office before attending any classes. The classes will be identified and the Office will notify the applicable instructor. If the requirement includes housing accommodations, the Office will work in collaboration with University Housing.

5. ATTENDANCE

Instructors have the right to create attendance and late-work policies. All students are encouraged and expected to attend class and meet deadlines for assignments and tests.

The amount of allowable absences and length of assignment extensions are contingent upon the participatory nature of a course, course learning outcomes, and/or college or accrediting agency rules, and is up to the discretion of the professor.


If a student has a disability that causes reoccurring or cyclical acute episodes that may intermittently impact the student's ability to attend class and/or complete assignments in the scheduled time, flexibility in attendance/ assignments may be considered only if discussions between the student and the professor take place on the matter. The professor may confirm with ODS that the student has a documented disability and there are legitimate grounds for negotiating absences or extensions.

a) **Guidelines for Instructors Regarding Attendance Accommodations:**

ODS will work in collaboration with the Instructor in this determination.


ODS will seek the following information from Instructors in the determination process:

- Understanding of the role attendance plays in the design of a course.
- Basic understanding of the impact or role timing of assignments and exams play in the interactive or participatory nature of a course.
- Understanding of the course attendance policy/expectations (must be noted on the syllabus).
- Understanding of the methods used to calculate the final grade (Attendance, assignments, quizzes, exams, etc.).
- Confirmation that the attendance policy and late-work or missed test policy are applied consistently and, if there exceptions to the policies made for extenuating circumstances, such as athletic travel or religious observation, and understanding of those exceptions and the history of their application.
- Confirmation of whether student contributions constitute a substantial component of the learning process.
- An understanding of whether the design of the course relies on student participation as a significant method for learning.
- Understanding of to what extent failure to attend class or complete an assignment on time compromises the educational involvement or experience for other learners in the class.

 **NOTE:** *At no time is the student required to provide the instructors member with medical documentation.* However, as set forth in the Registration Process section of this Manual, a student must provide documentation of his or her disability to the ODS, and some of the information concerning the student's discussion and needs for an accommodation may be discussed with instructors in determining whether a reasonable accommodation can be made and the scope of that accommodation.

6. **REDUCED COURSE LOAD REQUEST**

ODS coordinates a reduction in course load in collaboration with the Office for Registration & Records for individuals whose disability substantially limits their ability to complete a full time course load.

 **NOTE:** *A reduced course load may impact financial aid. Students are encouraged to contact the Office for Financial Aid in this regard.*

7. **COURSE SUBSTITUTIONS**

ODS works collaboratively with the appropriate School Deans to requests substitute courses.

8. **DIETARY ACCOMMODATIONS**

ODS coordinates with AVI Food Systems for individuals requesting accommodations for on-campus dining accommodations. AVI will be presented with the information regarding any special diet needs to determine whether or not they can provide for these needs. **Reduced meal plans, as a rule, will not be approved unless AVI is unable to provide the necessary modifications.** The Office will work collaboratively with University Housing Operations in the event a modification in a meal plan is absolutely necessary and is supported by adequate documentation.

VII. INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOR FACULTY AND STAFF

Instructors should not make accommodations to a student with a disability without first consulting with ODS staff, nor should instructors accept or review medical or psychological reports if offered to them by a student to support a request for accommodation. Students should be referred to ODS to meet with staff for a review of these documents, and to determine eligibility for services and accommodations.

It would be exceptionally useful if instructors would make an announcement in class and have a statement in your syllabus to the effect as follows:

“In accordance with federal law, it is University policy to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as amended. If you believe that you have a physical, learning, or psychological impairment that requires an academic or other accommodation, please contact the Office for Disability Services. If you need this document upon which this notice appears in an alternative format, you may also contact the Coordinator for Disability Services.”

It is inappropriate to ask a student if they have a disability, nor should an instructor ask the student what’s “wrong” with them. It is also inappropriate to inquire about the details of a student’s impairment when presented with documentation relating to approval of a reasonable accommodation. Instructors who have questions or concerns about an accommodation request should contact ODS for guidance.

When it is not obvious what service a Service Animal provides, only limited inquiries are allowed. Staff may only ask two questions: (1) Is the Service Animal required because of a disability, and (2) What work or task has the Service Animal been trained to perform. Staff cannot ask about the person’s disability, require medical documentation of it, require a special identification card or training documentation for the Service Animal, or ask that the Service Animal demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.

Always make sure that your discussions with students are done in private, and be aware that many students are very uncomfortable in approaching instructors to discuss their special academic needs.

Instructors should know that accommodations are not retroactive. Instructors do not need to re-administer tests or make adjustments to course activities/grades that have already occurred if the student makes a request late in the semester. Instructors, however, must make accommodations from the date an appropriate notice is received from ODS. Reasonable Accommodation Approval Letters will be emailed to all parties affected by the accommodation via their TU accounts.

Instructors also should bear in mind that they need not lower academic standards or fundamentally alter a course to accommodate a student. Instead, accommodations are intended to provide equal access, not a competitive advantage, and you should contact ODS if you have concerns about any compromise to the integrity of your course based on an accommodation request or implementation.

Specific modalities for working with specific disabilities (*i.e.*, learning disability, deaf, hard of hearing, blind or visually impaired, etc.) are available at the Office for Disability Services.

VIII. NONDISCRIMINATION AND RETALIATION POLICIES

A. University Policy On Nondiscrimination

Tiffin University is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for employees, applicants for employment, students or applicants for admission, and access to educational opportunities on the basis of race, religion, personal appearance, color, sex, pregnancy, political affiliation, social-economic class, place of business, residence, religion, creed, ethnicity, national origin (including ancestry), citizenship status, physical or mental disability, age, marital status, family responsibilities, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, veteran or military status (including special disabled veteran, Vietnam-era veteran, or recently separated veteran), predisposing genetic characteristics, domestic violence victim status] or any other protected category under applicable local, state or federal law, including protections for those opposing discrimination or participating in any resolution process on campus or within the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or other human rights agencies.

This policy covers nondiscrimination in employment and in access to educational opportunities. Therefore, any member of the campus community who acts to deny, deprive, or limit the educational, employment, residential and/or social access, benefits and/or opportunities of any member of the campus community, guest, or visitor on the basis of their actual or perceived membership in the protected classes listed above is in violation of the University policy on nondiscrimination. When brought to the attention of the University, any such discrimination will be appropriately addressed and remedied by the University according to the Equity Resolution Process. Non-members of the campus community who engage in discriminatory actions within University programs or on University property are not under the jurisdiction of this policy but can be subject to actions that limit their access and/or involvement with University programs as the result of their misconduct. All vendors serving the University through third-party contracts are subject by those contracts to the policies and procedures or their employers or to these policies and procedures, to which their employer has agreed to be bound.

B. University Policy On Retaliation

Protected activity under this policy includes reporting an incident that may implicate this policy, participating in the grievance process, supporting a Complainant or Respondent, assisting in providing information relevant to an investigation, and/or acting in good faith to oppose conduct that constitutes a violation of this Policy.

Acts of alleged retaliation should be reported immediately to the Title IX Coordinator and will be promptly investigated. Tiffin University is prepared to take appropriate steps to protect individuals who fear that they may be subjected to retaliation.

It is prohibited for Tiffin University or any member of University community to take materially adverse action by intimidating, threatening, coercing, harassing, or discriminating against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by law or policy, or because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this policy and procedure.

Charges against an individual for code of conduct violations that do not involve sex discrimination or sexual harassment but arise out of the same facts or circumstances as a report or complaint of sex discrimination, or a report or complaint of sexual harassment, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, constitutes retaliation.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment does not constitute retaliation.

Charging an individual with a code of conduct violation for making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a grievance proceeding under this policy and procedure does not constitute retaliation,

provided that a determination regarding responsibility, alone, is not sufficient to conclude that any party has made a materially false statement in bad faith.

C. Notice or Complaints of Discrimination, Harassment, and/or Retaliation

All complaints of discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation will be taken seriously and investigated promptly. If it is determined that there has been a violation of University policy, appropriate disciplinary, administrative or other actions as appropriate will be taken in the University's sole discretion. Refer to the [Tiffin University Equal Opportunity, Harassment, & Nondiscrimination Policy & Procedures](#) manual for the entire process.

Notice or complaints of discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation may be made using any of the following options:

- File a complaint with, or notice to, the Title IX Coordinator or deputy in absence of the Title IX Coordinator (refer to contact information). Such a report may be made at any time (including during non-business hours) by using the telephone number or email address, or by mail to the office address, previously listed.
- Report online, using the reporting form posted at https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TiffinUniv&layout_id=40
- Anonymous reports are accepted but can give rise to a need to investigate. Tiffin University tries to provide supportive measures to all Complainants, which is impossible with an anonymous report. Because reporting carries no obligation to initiate a formal response, and as Tiffin University respects the Complainant requests to dismiss complaints unless there is a compelling threat to health and/or safety, the Complainant is largely in control and should not fear a loss of privacy by making a report that allows Tiffin University to discuss and/or provide supportive measures.
- All incidents of crime must be reported to Campus Safety and Security by calling 419- 448-3303 or 419- 934-0721 or visiting the office located in The Gillmor Student Center.
- Allegations of violations of policy, or inquiries about or concerns regarding this policy and procedure, may be made internally to:

Dr. Sharon Perry-Fantini
 Vice Provost for Equity, Access & Opportunity /Title IX & 504 Coordinator
 Office of Equity, Access & Opportunity
 (419) 448-3504
perryfantinis@tiffin.edu