

Office of Disability Services

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Transition into Higher Education as a Student with a Disability

Oberlin College provides a variety of accommodations for students with disabilities in order to facilitate access to all programs, services, and activities. Each student's situation is unique; therefore, the Office of Disability Services strongly advises students to begin the registration and accommodation process promptly. Some accommodations, such as priority registration and alternate text format, require advanced planning, and some accommodations such as residential placement in a room with an accessible bathroom require even more planning.

Because the legal requirements for accommodations are different in K-12 than in higher education, students are not identified as having a disability until they disclose that information. Students no longer have an IEP or 504 plan that is organized by the school and directed by teachers. As a result, in order to receive accommodations, students must register as a person with a disability with the Office of Disability Services and provide documentation of the disability.

All information is confidential and not included in a student's college file.

In order to provide more information during the college transition, the new-student orientation program includes a session designed specifically for students with disabilities and their families.

Registering as a Student with a Disability

The process for registration as a student with a disability involves three steps:

1. The student self-identifies as a person with a disability to the Office of Disability Services.
2. The student provides documentation of a disability.
3. The student meets with the director or the associate director for discussion.

In order to receive pre-matriculation accommodations, students must send documentation to the Office of Disability Services no later than June 15, 2009.

Guidelines for Documentation

To receive accommodations, students must provide a signed, typed report written by an appropriate evaluator. The documentation must include the following information:

- credentials of the evaluator, including the area of specialty
- diagnostic statement identifying the disability
- history of the current and past impact of the disability on major life activities
- description of the current functional limitations as they might relate to the college experience
- description of any expected progression or stability of the disability
- description of current and present accommodations, services, and or collateral support services

Documentation for a learning disability must be no older than three years, although previous IEP and 504 reports may be included. Most other documentation should be current within six months. Specific documentation requirements are posted on the Office of Disability Services web site at www.oberlin.edu/disability.

Housing and Dining Accommodations

Oberlin College has a residential housing and dining program with varying environments that can meet the accommodation needs of students with disabilities.

Since the College begins housing assignments promptly in June, the timely receipt of a housing/dining accommodation request is essential. The student must contact the director or assistant director for assistance with documentation specific to housing and dining. A student requesting housing and or dining accommodations must complete the disability self-disclosure form found in this book and the housing/dining accommodation request form, which is available from either the Office of Disability Services or the Office of Residential Education and Dining Services (www.oberlin.edu/resed). Return the disability self-disclosure form to the Office of Disability Services; return the housing/dining accommodation request form to the Office of Residential Education and Dining Services. **The deadline for fall housing accommodation requests is June 15, 2009.**