



July 2018

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE
VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

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To: Faculty Members
From: Kevin Kregel, Associate Provost for Faculty
Melissa Shivers, Vice President for Student Life and Interim Chief Diversity Officer
Re: Academic accommodations for students with disabilities

We write to refer you to resources available through Student Disability Services (SDS) for working with students you will likely encounter in your faculty role. **If a student approaches you about disability accommodations without a Letter of Accommodation, it is important for you to refer that student to SDS before providing accommodations.** In this way, students with disabilities receive the accommodations to which they are entitled and university standards are maintained.

Students and instructors are encouraged to review the list of common accommodation descriptions. SDS is dedicated to helping students find and implement reasonable academic accommodations. The accommodation process involves input from both the student and the instructor. To determine appropriate accommodations, SDS engages in an individualized inquiry that balances the needs of the student and the academic objectives of the course or program. Please let SDS know if you have questions or need clarification **(319-335-1462)**. You also may seek the assistance of your collegiate dean's office.

Our strategic plan recognizes the link between diversity and educational excellence. Disability is an important dimension of diversity, and our goal is to be welcoming and supportive for members of our community who are differently-abled. In addition, the university is required by law to provide access to all of its programs and activities to university students with disabilities and is prohibited from discriminating against students on the basis of their disability. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act describes the specific requirement for faculty to provide reasonable academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities and the Americans with Disabilities Act requires making public accommodations available for persons with disabilities.

The guide entitled *Assisting Students with Disabilities: A Guide for Instructors* provides additional background and helpful information (<http://diversity.uiowa.edu/eod/assisting-students-disabilities-guide-instructors>). Should you have questions or need assistance in working with students with disabilities, please contact SDS. You may also refer to the SDS website at <http://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu>.

Additionally, academic and instructional materials provided via the World Wide Web are subject to the University of Iowa Web Accessibility Policy. Materials covered by this policy include webpages, electronic documents and presentations, video resources, and other online content. Contact your departmental IT support staff for assistance. You may review this policy at <https://itsecurity.uiowa.edu/policy/webaccessibility>.

Thank you for making the University of Iowa accessible for students with disabilities. Please feel free to contact us or the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity (319-335-0705 or diversity@uiowa.edu) with questions.

c: Sue J. Curry, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost