

Additional Information

The staff of Student Disability Services (SDS) welcomes collaboration with faculty who have students with disabilities in their classrooms and encourages you to contact SDS with questions and concerns. We look forward to the opportunity to share in The University of Iowa's responsibility to create an accessible environment.



You can also visit the Student Disability Services Information for Faculty website at www.uiowa.edu/~sds/faculty for additional information. For additional questions, please contact SDS at 319-335-1462 or at sds-information@uiowa.edu.

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Nondiscrimination Statement

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Faculty Information for Assisting Students with Disabilities

Student Disability Services

The University of Iowa
3100 Burge Hall
Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1214

Phone: 319-335-1462

Fax: 319-335-3973

TTY: 319-335-1498

E-mail:

sds-information@uiowa.edu

Quick Tips for Faculty & Teaching Assistants

Listening

If an individual experiences a disability that affects communication, listen carefully. When necessary clarify by asking questions that can be answered by yes or no. **Don't pretend to understand if you don't.** If you are unable to understand a student or they cannot hear you, try writing responses on paper or using a word processor.

Flexibility

If one approach doesn't seem to work, try another. If you have read the problem and the student doesn't seem to understand, try drawing a diagram. If a student can't see a diagram, describe it. If a student uses alternate format materials or adaptive software, consider asking for clarification of what methods will be most effective and most accessible for the student.

Openness

Don't assume that a student with a disability is less capable or will automatically have certain needs, let them tell you what they need, ask for clarification if it is needed.

Respect

You set the tone for the entire class. Be sure to establish a climate of mutual respect and support.

Communication

Communicate with the student about the accommodations for which he/she is eligible. **Do not question the student about their specific disability unless they have self-disclosed information about their condition.** Students may or may not choose to disclose information about their disability. Require a *Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR)* Form from the student to verify eligibility.

Fairness

Hold all students to the same standards and be clear in terms of your expectations.

Referrals

Any student who discloses a disability to you and does not have a *Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR)* Form should be referred to the office of Student Disability Services, 3100 Burge, 319-335-1462 or www.uiowa.edu/~sds.

Support for Faculty

Student Disability Services (SDS) provides the following assistance:

- Information regarding the procedures that students with disabilities must follow in arranging for accommodations
- Collaboration with faculty on accommodation decisions when there is a potential for a fundamental alteration of an academic requirement
- Staff development regarding understanding of policies and practices that apply to students with disabilities in postsecondary settings
- Information about faculty rights when working with students with disabilities
- Staff development to enhance understanding of faculty's responsibility to provide accommodations to students and how to provide accommodations and modifications
- Information with regard to referring students who may need disability services
- Day-to-day assistance with issues that pertain to students with disabilities