

Frequently Asked Questions for Students

Q: What is a disability?

A: The term “disability” is defined by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as *physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a record of such an impairment, or being regarded as having such an impairment.*

Q: What does the Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) mean by the term “documentation”?

A: Relevant documentation is needed to verify the existence of a disability and to determine appropriate accommodations based on the functional impact of the disability related to academic courses, testing methods, program requirement, etc.

Q: Where can I find information about accommodations and services for students with disabilities?

A: Accommodations are granted on a case-by-case basis. The Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) advisors determine the appropriate accommodations based on the documentation results and a personal interview with the student. ODAS is located in Demoss Hall, room 2016.

Q: What is the procedure to obtain academic accommodations?

A: After an initial interview with a disability advisor who reviews your disability documentation, academic accommodations are granted. Then the student must fill out a Release of Information form completely giving the disability advisor permission to contact the professors listed and request the accommodations.

Q: If I filled out a Release Form during my first semester here, do I still need to fill out a form every semester?

A: Yes. A student must fill out a Release Form every semester completely and return it to the Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) in order to receive academic accommodations. A student has the right to request accommodations one semester and not the next. Also, a student can decide to request accommodations for just one class, certain classes or all classes on a semester basis.