

Frequently Asked Questions for Non-Academic Accommodations

General Disability Accommodation Questions

What is a disability?

An individual with a disability is defined by the ADA as a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of such an impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment.

What is a disability accommodation?

An accommodation is a modification to a policy that is needed to provide equal access and is reasonable in the sense that it does not fundamentally alter a program or create undue hardship on the university.

What accommodations are we referring to as Non-Academic?

Housing, Dining, and ESA/Service Dog accommodations

What documentation is required to be submitted with requests for accommodations and by whom should it be completed?

Disability Verification Form for Non-Academic Accommodations

This form must be completed by a qualified, licensed healthcare provider, described as follows:

Liberty University requires documentation from an appropriately qualified healthcare provider who is currently treating the student to evaluate each request accurately and equitably. The healthcare provider must have a current professional license to diagnose the respective conditions. The qualified healthcare provider completing all parts of the Disability Verification Form for Non-Academic Accommodations cannot be related to the student.

What is the purpose of an Intake Meeting?

The purpose of the intake meeting is to discuss the request, verify a disability, and determine reasonable accommodations. This meeting also serves as the beginning of the interactions between the student and the ODAS advisor who processes accommodations.

Can Non-academic accommodations be requested at the same time as Academic accommodations?

Yes. If your initial accommodation request includes both types of accommodations, you will be contacted by different staff for each and will be processed separately.

Can more than one type of Non-Academic Accommodation be discussed in one Intake Meeting?

Yes. An Accessibility Service Advisor can discuss each request (Housing, ESA, Dining) in the same Intake Meeting.

Housing Accommodation Questions

How early should I submit my housing accommodation request?

Students are strongly encouraged to submit housing accommodation requests at least **three months before arriving** on campus. Due to limited availability of housing, failure to submit a request at least three months before arrival may result in accommodations being unavailable, even if the accommodation request was verified by ODAS.

Do I need to submit a housing accommodation request each academic year?

Yes. Requests for housing accommodations must be submitted for each academic year the student resides on campus. Housing accommodations cannot be guaranteed for any subsequent academic year.

What is the process for housing accommodations?

The housing accommodation process always includes (but may not be limited to) the following steps: Submission of a request through LUAccommodate by the student, including the attachment of a completed Disability Verification Form for Non-Academic Accommodations

1. Student Intake Meeting with ODAS staff
2. Verification of the disability and determination of reasonable accommodations by ODAS staff
3. Housing accommodation notice submitted to Residence Life by ODAS
4. Response from Residence Life to ODAS regarding the request
5. Accommodation letter sent to the student by ODAS

Are requested accommodations guaranteed?

No. The Office of Residence Life provides reasonable accommodations to residents with Disabilities, who have gone through the process of disability verification with ODAS, in so far as it is reasonably possible to do so. Due to limitations of available housing options, requested accommodations may not always be available or possible. If accommodations can not be made, alternative options will be discussed.

Can specific buildings/halls/rooms be requested?

Typically, specific buildings or floor level may be requested as the need relates to functional limitations and barriers but cannot be guaranteed based on availability.

Dining

What should I do before requesting dietary accommodations?

Review the Liberty Dining Services/Sodexo My Way website to see if your food allergies, intolerances, and/or medical dietary needs can be standardly provided by [Liberty Dining Services](#).

When should I submit my dining accommodation request?

Students are strongly encouraged to submit dining accommodation requests at least **three months before arriving** on campus.

Are all on-campus students required to have a meal plan?

Yes, all on-campus students are required to choose a meal plan. In rare circumstances, exemptions to this policy are made for documented medical dietary needs that cannot be met by Liberty Dining Services.

Is a Meal Plan Exemption a reasonable accommodation for students based on lifestyle dietary choices, such as Whole Foods or Plant-based diets?

Accommodations are based on documented disabilities, not on personal lifestyle choices. There are options on Liberty's campus that support many dietary lifestyles, but accommodations are made based on what is possible within Liberty's dining system that provides equal access.

What is the process for dining accommodation?

The accommodation request process always includes (but may not be limited to) the following steps:

1. Submission of a request through LUAccommodate by the student, including the Disability Verification Form for Non-Academic Accommodations with the initial request
2. Student Intake meeting with ODAS staff
3. ODAS staff discussion with Campus Dietician to determine reasonable accommodations
4. Accommodation letter sent to the student by ODAS

Service Dogs or Emotional Support Animals

What Liberty University policy should I be aware of regarding Service and Emotional Support Animals?

Students with this accommodation must read and agree to the [Liberty University Service and Emotional Support Assistance Animal Policy](#).

What documentation is needed in addition to the Disability Verification Form for Non-academic Accommodations?

Students requesting an accommodation for a Service Dog or ESA to live on campus must also submit the following documentation with the request:

Veterinarian	Student
-Record of current good health -Record of updated immunizations appropriate to animal -Record of sterilization	-Service Animal Information -Photo of the animal

When should I submit my ESA or Service Dog accommodation request?

Students are strongly encouraged to submit ESA or Service Dog accommodation requests at least **two months before arriving** on campus.

What is the process for ESA/Service Dog accommodations?

The ESA/Service dog accommodation process always includes (but may not be limited to) the following steps:

1. Submission of a request through LUAccommodate by the student, including the attachment of a completed Disability Verification Form for Non-Academic Accommodations
2. Student Intake Meeting with ODAS staff
3. Verification of the disability and determination of reasonable accommodations by ODAS staff
4. ESA/Service Dog accommodation notice submitted to Residence Life by ODAS
5. Response from Residence Life to ODAS regarding the request
6. Accommodation letter sent to the student by ODAS