

Students with Disabilities FAQ

Where can I get information regarding services for student with disabilities?

Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) is an area of the Office of the Associate Vice President for Student Services and is located in Suite 2.110 of the Lee Hage Jamail Student Center. Dr. Rebecca Saavedra is the Associate Vice President for Student Services and the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities (CSSD). The CSSD works with students with hearing impairments, visual impairments, learning disabilities, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, mobility impairments, psychological disorders, medical conditions and other health-related impairments. You can call SSD at 490.747.4820 (voice) or email rsaavedr@utmb.edu for additional information.

What constitutes a disability?

As defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, a disability is a mental or physical impairment, which substantially limits one or more major life activities.

What does substantially limiting mean?

According to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, substantially limits is defined as being unable to perform a major life activity (i.e. caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, working), or significantly restricted as to the condition, manner or duration under which a major life activity can be performed, in comparison to the average person or most people.

Who are the ADA Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator for the University?

The ADA Coordinator is Robb Ruffner, Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, (409) 747-8823. The Section 504 Coordinator is Dr. Rebecca Saavedra, Associate Vice President for Student Services (409) 772-4820.

What is the process for registering as a student with a disability with SSD?

A student who believes he or she has a disability may contact CSSD, the ADA Coordinator or the Student Affairs Dean of the student's respective school.

I received accommodations in prior years can I use past documentation of my disability at UTMB?

This will need to be determined based on the disability and how old the documentation is.

What if I suspect I may have a disability but have never been diagnosed?

A student who thinks he or she may have a disability should contact CSSD to schedule an appointment to discuss his or her individual situation. Students who decide to request an accommodation will then need to be tested and provide adequate documentation to support their request.

In CSSD involved with the admissions process?

No, CSSD is not a participant in the admissions process. All students must be “otherwise qualified” to attend UTMB and must meet the same admissions standards, regardless of disability.

Are shuttle buses and other public transportation services accessible to students with disabilities?

Yes, the campus shuttle buses are wheelchair accessible and all students are eligible to ride for free with ID.

I am on crutches for a temporary injury. Can I get a special parking permit?

Temporary disabled parking permits for students can be obtained at the Parking Office. Call (409) 772-1581 or (409) 772-4786.

I have a temporary injury to my arm/hand. How can I take my tests?

If a student believes assistance is necessary, he or she should contact SSD to discuss what resources may be available on a temporary basis.