

## **UTMB**

### **Students with Disabilities FAQ**

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

The UTMB Handbook of Operating Procedures for Students with Disabilities, Policy 7.1.1 can be reviewed at

[http://www.utmb.edu/Policies\\_And\\_Procedures/Student\\_Policies/PNP\\_004984](http://www.utmb.edu/Policies_And_Procedures/Student_Policies/PNP_004984).

Services for students with disabilities is an area of the Office of Student Services and is located on the Second Floor of the Lee Hage Jamail (LHJ) Student Center.

#### **What constitutes a disability?**

As stated in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Amendments Act of 2008 (PL 110-325) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, a person with a disability is defined as having a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual; a record of such an impairment; or regarded as having such an impairment.

#### **What does substantially limiting mean?**

According to the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, substantially limits is defined as being unable to perform a major life activity, 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. Major life activities include, but are not limited to, caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and

working. Major life activities also include the operation of a major bodily function, including but not limited to, functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions.

### **Who are the ADA Personnel for students?**

The UTMB Student ADA Coordinator is Faith Robin, M.Ed., L.P.C. She can be contacted by phone, 409-747-4818, or by e-mail, [tfrobin@utmb.edu](mailto:tfrobin@utmb.edu). Students can call 409-772-2485 to make an appointment on any Tuesday or Thursday morning from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Faculty and staff are also encouraged to call for consultations and meetings. The Student ADA Coordinator office is located in the LHJ Student Center, Room 2.126.

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

A student who has a disability may contact the Student ADA Coordinator or the Student Affairs Dean of the student's assigned school. Prior to the semester, it is recommended that students meet with the Student ADA Coordinator to provide current documentation of a disability and discuss the need for accommodations in the classroom setting.

### **What kind of documentation is needed for accommodations?**

Documentation is a written report from a licensed and qualified professional in their respective field of expertise. For medical and psychological disabilities, documentation must provide a current diagnosis and need for recommended accommodations in the

classroom settings. For learning disabilities, a history of at least 1 complete psycho-educational assessment is requested that includes intelligence and achievement assessment scores. In addition to documentation of a prior assessment, the student must verify a need for such accommodations in the current semester of enrollment. All documentation is written on official letterhead from the licensed and qualified professional and is reviewed on a case-case basis.

**I received accommodations in prior years. Can I use past documentation of my disability at UTMB?**

This is determined on a case by case basis by the UTMB Student ADA Coordinator. Before completing new testing, it is recommended that each student meet with the Student ADA Coordinator to discuss their case and seek necessary options and resources.

**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 can contact the Student ADA Coordinator to schedule an appointment to discuss his or her individual situation. Students who decide to request an accommodation will then provide adequate documentation to support their request for a 504 accommodation to the UTMB Student ADA Coordinator. There are several resources available to students on a case-case basis.

**Is the Office of Student Services or the Student ADA Coordinator involved with the admissions process?**

No, neither is 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, for each of the prospective programs at UTMB.

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

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

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

Temporary disabled parking permits for students can be requested at Parking Office. They are located in the Rebecca Sealy Hospital, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, East side of building. Call (409) 7721581 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 can contact the Student ADA Coordinator to discuss what resources may be available on a temporary basis.