



An Introduction to Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)

SSD's primary role is to ensure students with disabilities have equal access to their academic experience at The University of Texas at Austin. SSD also consults with other campus offices and departments to facilitate access and inclusion in all aspects of campus life.

SSD works with students with a broad range of disabilities including:

- AD/HD
- Autism
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- Learning Disabilities
- Medical Conditions (diabetes, migraines, epilepsy, etc.)
- Mobility Disabilities
- Psychological/ Mental Health Conditions
- Temporary (broken bones, concussion, etc)
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Visual Disabilities

Students who have questions about whether their condition qualifies as a disability are encouraged to contact SSD. Details of a student's disability are kept confidential within the SSD office.

SSD determines eligibility and approves academic accommodations that may include:

- Extended time on exams
- Reduced distraction testing environment
- Copy of notes and/or slides
- Permission to arrive late/leave early
- Permission to step out of class
- Flexible attendance
- Flexible deadlines
- Preferential seating

Accommodations cannot change the essential requirements of a course, program or degree. SSD staff are available to consult with instructors regarding questions or concerns about accommodations.

Students should notify instructors about their approved accommodations by delivering an Accommodation Letter, provided by SSD. Students and instructors should meet to discuss the approved accommodations and coordinate how they will be provided within the context of each course.

SSD also offers the following supports and services to students:

- Course load reduction (non-academic drop, no 'Q' penalty) and maintain full-time status
- Computer lab with assistive technology (Kurzweil, ZoomText, Dragon)
- Walk-in hours for consultation/problem-solving (Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.)
- Referrals and potential funding for disability evaluation/testing

The University of Texas at Austin is required to provide equal access by three federal laws:

- The Rehabilitation Act of 1973,
- The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act of 2008

Faculty and staff play a vital role in ensuring compliance by accommodating students with disabilities. SSD is available to consult with faculty or staff about how to accommodate or work with a student with a disability.

Additional resources are also available on the faculty/staff section of the SSD website:

<http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/facultystaff/>

For more information:

Services for Students with Disabilities

PHONE: (512) 471-6259 **VP:** (512) 410-6644

EMAIL: ssd@austin.utexas.edu

WEB: <http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/>

ON CAMPUS: Student Services Building (SSB) 4.206

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Tips for Instructors Providing Accommodations during Study Abroad Programs

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students and Instructors must discuss the accommodations listed in the Accommodation Letter from SSD before accommodations can be provided. Ideally this conversation will be started by the student but instructors are encouraged to provide a safe and supportive space for discussion. Students should not expect to receive accommodations on the same day the letter is delivered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodations are provided in order to ensure students have equal access in their academic endeavors. UT is required to provide accommodations to be in compliance with federal and state laws. The inconsistent nature of accessibility in foreign countries makes it imperative for faculty members and students with disabilities to begin discussing accommodations early so plans can be made in advance.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students with disabilities have met the same eligibility requirements as the other students. Treat students with disabilities with the same courtesy you would afford to other students and hold them to the same academic standards and expectations as any other student. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning in advance is a very important step in accommodating students with disabilities going abroad. While students will be working with Study Abroad and SSD, it can be helpful to leave space for students to discuss accommodations they may need or concerns they may have about access in a foreign country.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The presence and legitimacy of a student's disability has been verified by the SSD office. Students do not have to disclose their diagnosis or their disability to anyone outside the SSD office and should not provide disability documentation directly to an instructor. Treat disability information which has been disclosed to you as confidential. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students have a right to use accommodations but they also have responsibilities they must abide by in order to use their accommodations. Student Rights and Responsibilities can be found on the SSD website: http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/rights-and-responsibilities/ Students who fail to follow through on their responsibilities may be delayed in receiving their accommodations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 90% of UT Austin students using accommodations have "invisible disabilities" which means you cannot see their disability. This is important to remember when in a foreign country and participating in group activities. Plan to check in with students about activities in advance to ensure they have appropriate accommodations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage students to follow university's policies, such as registering with SSD to receive approval for accommodations. This protects students, faculty and the institution by ensuring consistency. Violations have been found in cases where faculty members have not followed institutional policies or have failed to properly refer students to the appropriate offices.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructors should enlist the support of their departments and the International Office to secure resources for accommodating students (such as space for providing testing accommodations). Ensuring accessibility is the responsibility of individual instructors as well as departments and colleges/schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think "how" not "if"—students with disabilities likely have experience doing everyday activities in different ways. If you encounter an unexpected obstacle while abroad and need to discuss how to accommodate the student, start the conversation with how they might do the activity, not if they should do it.

Additional resources and information about accommodatng students with disabilities can be found on the SSD Website:

<http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/facultystaff/>

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