FACULTY RESOURCE GUIDE

Student Disability Services
University of South Florida St. Petersburg
Dear Faculty:

We invite you to use this Resource Guide to assist you in learning about your role in the accommodations process here at USFSP. Creating an accessible environment is a collaborative process that involves SDS, the Faculty, and students requesting accommodations. Please contact us should you need additional guidance, clarification, or if you have suggestions.

We greatly appreciate our colleagues in USF Tampa SDS who have allowed us to utilize or adapt portions of their SDS Faculty/Staff Handbook.

ABOUT THE SDS OFFICE:

Mission: Create and maintain an environment at the university that is supportive to students with various disabilities. SDS will grant academic accommodations to students with documented disabilities, providing them with equitable and accessible education.

Location and Hours:

Student Disability Services is located in the Student Life Center (SLC), Suite 1203.

Office Hours:

When classes are in session:  Mon – Thurs.  8:30 to 6pm  
                          Friday       8:30 to 5pm
When classes are not in session:  Mon. – Fri.  8:30 to 5pm

Testing Hours:  Testing may begin at 8:30 and ending 30 minutes before closing.
DISABILITY LAW

It is the policy and practice of USFSP to comply fully with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the ADA Amendments Act of 2009, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, all of which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability. Students who have self-identified, provided documentation of a disability, and requested reasonable accommodations are entitled to receive approved modifications of programs, appropriate academic adjustments, or auxiliary aids that enable them to participate in and benefit from all educational programs and activities. The University’s ADA policy may be found at http://generalcounsel.usf.edu in the “Policies and Procedures” section.

A disability is defined as “any physical, learning, medical, or psychological condition that substantially limits a “major life activity.”” Disabilities can be visible or non-visible. Disabilities covered by legislation include (but are not limited to) AIDS, blindness, cancer, cerebral palsy, diabetes, epilepsy, head injuries, hearing disabilities, specific learning disabilities, loss of limb(s), multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, emotional disabilities, speech disabilities, spinal cord injuries, and vision disabilities.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the student’s responsibility to identify him/herself to Student Disability Services and to provide documentation of a disability. All accommodations are approved on a case-by-case basis.

Once the documentation is reviewed by SDS, the student will schedule an intake appointment with SDS to identify reasonable and effective accommodations. An Accommodation Letter will be created which the student is responsible for presenting to instructors.

Students must request new Accommodation Letters each semester. Students are not typically required to resubmit documentation every semester.

A sample of Accommodation Letter can be found in the addendum.
Students are encouraged to present the Accommodation Letter to instructors early in the semester; however, many students do attempt to complete course requirements without needing accommodations, thus, they may present the letter later in the semester. Instructors cannot refuse to honor these accommodations; however, the student is responsible for providing sufficient notice for the accommodations to be arranged.

Students with disabilities must be able to maintain appropriate behavioral standards in class—the student conduct code applies to all students.

Students are expected to practice self-advocacy when classroom issues arise and to meet with instructors during office hours in the beginning of the semester.

**INSTRUCTOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

It is the responsibility of faculty to work in conjunction with SDS to provide approved accommodations and support services, in a fair and timely manner, to students with disabilities.

Please note:
- Accommodations may be requested at any point in the semester.
- Accommodations are not retroactive.
- Certain accommodations may also apply in online courses (particularly with exams).

All faculty are encouraged to contact the office of Student Disability Services with suggestions, concerns or need for clarification about accommodations.

**Syllabus Statement**

SDS encourages instructors to include a statement in the syllabus informing students of the available services. For example:

“Students in need of academic accommodations for a disability may consult with Student Disability Services to arrange appropriate accommodations. Students are required to give reasonable notice prior to requesting an accommodation.”

**Course Accessibility**

Instructors are responsible for providing course information to students in accessible formats upon request and students are likewise responsible for requesting auxiliary aids/formats in a timely manner.

For students who are blind/low-vision, reserve front row seats. Videotapes, movies, and streaming video should be open or closed-captioned.

If the class is scheduled for a field trip, ensure that the site is accessible for students in wheelchairs or with other mobility issues. Also, transportation provided by the university must be accessible.

**Note-taker**

Students who have a disability that impacts their ability to take notes may utilize a copy of class notes provided by a fellow student who serves as a volunteer note-taker.
If a student requests assistance locating a note-taker, please make the following announcement via Canvas and/or verbally in class:

“For reasons of a disability, a fellow student has requested assistance with note-taking. If you are willing to provide a copy of your notes, please contact Student Disability Services in SLC 1203.”

**Please note that the student with a disability has the right to remain anonymous.**
If the student wishes to remain anonymous to the note taker, SDS will arrange for the note-taker to either send or bring the notes to SDS and we will then forward them to the SDS student.

**Exam Accommodations**
Students receiving exam accommodations do not have to utilize SDS testing rooms. If, however, the student or the instructor prefers to use SDS, the procedure explained below will apply. It is important for the Test Assistance Form to be delivered to SDS well in advance so that the office can plan accordingly. It is also critical for the section of the form which asks the instructor to state allowable materials be completed thoroughly.

**A sample of the Test Assistance Form can be found in the addendum.**

Based on the documentation submitted to SDS, extended time is typically approved in increments of either 1 ½ or double the allotted class time. Extended time does apply to all online exams. Extended time does not apply to take home exams.

In some cases, the student who receives extended time will have another class that interferes with this accommodation; therefore, the exam will need to be scheduled at a time that is conducive to this accommodation. Exams in evening classes will also need to be scheduled during SDS office hours (unless the instructor can provide the accommodation during class time).

**Exam Scheduling:** If the student desires to use SDS for testing, it is his/her responsibility to comply with all scheduling procedures and policies.

1) The student first should schedule the exam appointment in SDS at least 5-7 days before the exam.
2) After scheduling, the student and the instructor complete the Test Assistance Form and the student returns it to SDS at least 3 days before the exam. If the student needs to reschedule the exam for any reason, he/she must obtain the approval of the instructor.

**Final Exam Scheduling:** Due to the large numbers of exams needing proctoring, students are instructed to schedule their Final Exams three weeks prior to the end of the semester to enable SDS to obtain proctors and rooms. Should the number of exams exceed the availability of testing spaces, an alternative testing time may need to be arranged.

**Exam security and delivery to SDS:** SDS is highly sensitive to the need for exam security. Exams electronically sent should be sent to sds-exams@usfsp.edu. Exams are secured in a cabinet with multiple security devices. Exam testing rooms in SDS are monitored by cameras.
In order for exams to begin promptly at the appointed time, it is advisable for exams that are electronically delivered to SDS and requiring printing, sorting, etc., to be sent to SDS at least one hour prior to the scheduled start time for staff to complete the necessary tasks.

**Extended Time on Exams in Canvas:**
For students taking timed online exams away from the classroom, the instructor can provide extended time for the individual student by following this process:

1. Click “Quizzes” on the left course menu.
2. Click on the name of the exam you want to update.
3. Click “Moderate this Quiz” on the right side of the screen.
4. Click the checkbox next to the student’s name.
5. Click the button that says “Change extensions for 1 selected students.”
6. Type the extra amount of time for that student in the menu that pops up.
7. Click Save.

For additional help, please contact Karla Kmetz Morris at: Kmetz1@mail.usf.edu

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**What should a faculty member do if they suspect a student has a disability?**
- In private, the faculty member should ask the student how he/she can be supported. It is best to focus on the difficulties and recommend the various support services and departments on campus, including SDS. It is not appropriate to directly ask or suggest that the student has a disability.

**What if a student requests an accommodation without a letter from SDS?**
- Instructors should refer the student to SDS. Unless the student is registered with SDS, any academic modification is not considered an ADA accommodation—it is a courtesy offered by the instructor.

**Does the “extended time” accommodation apply to homework and other assignments?**
- If a student is approved for extended time, this applies only to exams, quizzes, or assignments to be completed in class or as a timed online exam.

**What are some other common classroom accommodations?**
- Recording lectures
- Preferential seating
- Ability to leave class periodically
- Leniency with attendance due to student’s chronic condition with acute episodes and/or very frequent medical appointments. The student is still responsible for meeting course requirements without altering the essential nature of the course.
- Use of a laptop for taking notes
- Use of a computer for essay exams
RESOURCES

Universal Design of Instruction: “The goal of UDI is to maximize the learning of students with a wide range of characteristics by applying Universal Design principles to all aspects of instruction (e.g. delivery methods, physical spaces, information resources, technology, personal interactions, assessments.” Sheryl Burgstahler, PhD, U. of Washington DO-IT

For a complete UDI application checklist, consult Equal Access: Universal Design of Instruction at https://www.washington.edu/doit/equal-access-universal-design-instruction

Etiquette for Working with Students with Disabilities:

For guidelines for engaging and interacting with people with disabilities in a courteous, thoughtful manner and for tips for working with specific disabilities, please consult this link:


Other Resources:

Commonly Utilized Accommodations:
http://equity.psu.edu/student-disability-resources/faculty-handbook/common-accom

Accommodations for Students with Psychiatric Disabilities:
http://www.washington.edu/doit/psychiatric-impairments

Accommodations for Students with Learning Disabilities:
http://www.washington.edu/doit/learning-disabilities

Working with Students with Asperger’s Syndrome:
http://www.mnsu.edu/access/faculty/students/
CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

Semester: Summer Semester 2018

To: USFSP Faculty Members

From: Nalini Soni, Office Manager
Student Affairs/Disability Services

Subject:

Date:

The student named above has a documented disability and is enrolled in your class this semester. In order for this student to have the same opportunity to succeed as his/her peers, certain accommodations and support services are necessary. Please note that it is not appropriate for course expectations or content to be altered for this student. It has been determined that, based on appropriate certification, this student is eligible for the services indicated below:

- Use of a note taker in class. The student will contact you if an announcement is necessary to recruit potential note takers from your class.
- Time and a half for exams and quizzes, and a reduced distraction environment.
- Use of a sign/oral interpreter during class lectures.
- Permission to digitally record class lectures as a note taking method.
- Preferential seating.
- Other:

Thank you for your assistance in providing accessibility at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. Please note that the information contained in this letter is confidential, and should not be shared with anyone without the student’s written permission. We recognize that you may have questions regarding individual students or ADA reasonable accommodations and want to remind you that we are here to assist you as well as the students. Please feel free to contact our office at (727) 873-4837 for any additional information or assistance that you may need.
TEST ASSISTANCE REQUEST FORM

It is the student’s responsibility to turn in the form at least one (1) week prior to the scheduled test date. Failure to do so may result in our inability to schedule the requested accommodations. If instructions remain the same for each test, students and instructors can complete one form for each course for the entire semester.

PART I  TO BE COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT:

Student’s Name: __________________________________________________________
E-mail: __________________________________________________________ Phone #: __________________________
Course # & Name: ______________________________________________________
Test Date: ______________ Start Time: ______________
Test Date: ______________ Start Time: ______________
Test Date: ______________ Start Time: ______________

INSTRUCTOR’S APPROVAL REQUIRED if date or start time is different from class time. Instructor please sign or initial here: ______________________________________

PART II  TO BE COMPLETED BY THE INSTRUCTOR:

Please plan on sending the tests in advance. If possible, at least two days prior to test date. Thank you.

Instructor’s Name: ______________________________________________________
E-Mail: __________________________________________________________ Phone #: __________________________
Student responses on Scantron? Yes _____ No _____ Proctor for test: Yes _____ No_______
Regular class time allowed (do not include this student's time accommodation): _______________________

Instructions and/or test materials permitted:
Calculator __________ Scratch Paper __________ Periodic Table __________
Formula Sheet __________ Other __________

Test Delivery: Please indicate one:
Instructor will deliver test to SDS (SLC 1203) ____ OR e-mail: sds-exams@usfsp.edu (faculty only)____

Test Return: Please indicate one:
Instructor will pick-up test from SDS ____ OR SDS will return the test within 24 hours to: __________
SDS PROCEDURE FOR TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

1. The student schedules quizzes and/or exams with SDS (preferably during the first 3 weeks of the semester).
2. The student and instructor complete the Test Assistance Request Form. The form may be picked up in the SDS office in SLC 1203 or it can be printed from our website (www.usfsp.edu/disability). The student should first fill out PART I of the form and then ask the instructor to complete PART II. Please complete the form in pen.
3. The completed form should be received by SDS prior to the scheduled exam (preferably 3-5 days prior) so that testing space and proctoring can be arranged.

GUIDELINES AND POLICIES FOR TAKING EXAMS IN SDS

Late Arrival
If you arrive more than 15 minutes after your scheduled examination time, you may have to reschedule your examination with your professor. Scheduled exam times will not be extended to allow for late arrival.

Illness
If you are unable to take an examination due to illness or emergency, contact your instructor immediately and make appropriate arrangements. It is your responsibility to reschedule examinations or to request adjustments to testing times.

Canceling examinations
You must contact SDS in advance to cancel any scheduled examination. Failure to contact SDS may result in the inability to access testing space in the future. If you drop a course, contact SDS.

Items not permitted in the Test center

Breaks during examinations
A break is considered part of your overall testing time, no additional time will be added. When taking an approved break, you must hand in all testing material to the proctor before leaving.

Examination Completion
You will not be able to access your examination once you turn the exam into an SDS proctor or if you leave the test center without consent.

Academic Dishonesty
Instances of academic dishonesty including but not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, using materials and equipment not previously approved during the exam or bringing items not previously approved by SDS testing staff into the testing room will result in your inability to continue utilizing SDS testing space. In addition, SOS will notify the academic faculty of the alleged violation for appropriate sanctions under the academic integrity policy.

Items NOT Allowed in the Testing Room

- Cell Phones
- Food - only if indicated as permitted on Accommodation Letter
- Electronic Devices - only permitted materials for tests as indicated on the Test Assistance Request Form by the instructor
- Sunglasses and hats/ball caps – only if indicated as permitted on Accommodation Letter
- Purses, book bags