

Policy of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Division of Academic Affairs
Subject: Student Request for Special Accommodations
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PURPOSE

UAMS embraces the philosophy of inclusion and strives to reflect diversity in its staff, faculty and student body. Consistent with this philosophy is the belief that all students are entitled to equal and appropriate access in the educational experience and a friendly and supportive environment for learning.

As such it is the practice and policy of UAMS to provide reasonable accommodations to all students in order for the student to be accorded equal access to or participation in the services, programs, and activities of the University.

POLICY

If the student intends to seek accommodation for a disabling condition, whether in the classroom, practice or any educational service or practice setting, this request must be made by the student to the designated college representative or committee of all colleges in which the student is enrolled. A Student Accommodation Request Form must be completed and submitted to each college in which he/she is enrolled, in a reasonable timeframe prior to the beginning of the semester and/or clinical or practice rotation, or immediately upon determination by the student that an accommodation is or will be desired if the semester or rotation has begun. Documentation that supports the need for accommodation of a disability may be requested by the college(s).

Many education programs at UAMS educate health care providers and practitioners in fields that often have physical requirements to be licensed, certified or to practice in these areas. Therefore, the education programs themselves typically have technical standards that students must meet to be eligible for the degree program. Determinations by the designated college representative(s) will take into account established technical standards and physical requirements established by the programs.

The designated college representative or committee will determine if an accommodation is warranted and will notify the student of the decision within 10 business days. If the an accommodation is warranted, the college representative(s) will also notify the appropriate faculty in the student's college(s) and course and program directors, as necessary to ensure that the approved accommodation is provided throughout the student's course of study. Unless it is a short-term, temporary accommodation, students need not reapply in subsequent semesters; the determination remains valid until the student completes the degree program in which he/she is enrolled, or until

he/she notifies the college representative(s) that the accommodation is no longer necessary. If a short-term, temporary accommodation is needed, it will be documented on the Student Accommodation Request Form, to include the expected termination date.

If the request for an accommodation has been approved and the student and college official(s) cannot agree upon a plan to implement the approved accommodation, the student may request a meeting with the designated college official(s), to discuss options for an implementation plan. Upon agreement of a plan and/or related decision, the designated college representative will notify the Dean(s) and provide a copy of the determination to the Enrollment Services and Academic Administration office, for reporting purposes.

If the request for an accommodation is denied by the designated college representative(s), the student may appeal this decision to the Dean(s) of the college(s) in which he/she is enrolled. The Dean(s) will notify the student of the decision regarding the appeal with 10 business days of the receipt of the request.

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences is committed to providing educational opportunities to all qualified students regardless of their economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, sex, creed, veteran status, age, marital or parental status, or national origin. UAMS observes all applicable Federal, state, and local laws, regulations and rules to include but not be limited to, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Title II), and their implementing regulations and guidance.