

POLICY TITLE

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish compliance with federal law to accommodate students with disabilities.

ARC PA REFERENCE

A3.10: Timely access and/or referral of students to services, addressing personal issues which may impact their progress in the PA program.

RESPONSIBLE PARTY AND REVIEW CYCLE

The UNC Faculty Committee will review this policy in even-numbered years, elevating any policy amendments to the Program Director for approval.

HISTORY OF APPROVAL AND UPDATES

Approved by Program Director April 2020

DEFINITIONS

N/A

POLICY

The UNC PA Program is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate on the basis of disability. The UNC PA Program adheres to University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's policies and applicable federal and state law regarding disability accommodations (<https://ars.unc.edu/about-ars/policies>). The UNC PA Program collaborates with the Accessibility Resources & Service (ARS) Office in order to provide reasonable accommodations for PA students with disabilities, chronic medical conditions, a temporary disability or pregnancy complications resulting in difficulties with accessing learning opportunities. Students who seek reasonable accommodations for a disability must contact ARS. ARS is the only body that approves requested accommodations.

PROCEDURE(S)

All students with a documented disability who are seeking accommodations should contact Accessibility Resources & Services Office (ARS) at least two weeks before the beginning of the semester or immediately following any injury or illness. This

recommendation is to ensure timely implementation of accommodations. In the first instance, students should visit the website: <https://ars.unc.edu/>; call 919-962-8300; or email accessibility@unc.edu. Students may also find assistance with the Equal Opportunity & Compliance office (<https://eoc.unc.edu>).

Faculty and staff members are required to provide reasonable accommodations to all students with disabilities who have provided appropriate documentation of the disability to ARS. Therefore, all students requesting accommodations because of a disability at any time during enrollment should be referred to ARS. Once the request has been made, ARS will determine eligibility for disability-related services.

If correct documentation has been submitted and a student qualifies for accommodation, ARS will notify each instructor by letter through a secured portal. The letter from ARS explains the accommodations necessary for that student. Any recommended accommodations must be reconciled with the program's published technical standards. Reasonable efforts will be made to implement ARS recommendations as long as they do not conflict fundamentally with these standards. ARS communications and reports are confidential. Discussing accommodations with a student must be done in confidence. If a student wishes disclose to a class member or another faculty member, that is his or her right, but a faculty member is prohibited from disclosing.

Each semester, it is the student's responsibility to notify ARS of his or her updated class schedule, and ARS will, in turn, notify each instructor by letter. If the program feels that it cannot implement all the recommended accommodations, the program should contact ARS to negotiate an acceptable alternative. Modifications of an existing ARS action plan under these circumstances will again take into consideration the program technical standards and program resources. The alternative will then be discussed with the student by ARS and the program.

The nature of exams and assessments in each course throughout the curriculum varies. For pre-clinical students, students should also notify the Director of Pre-Clinical Education to coordinate approved accommodations for assessments. For clinical courses, students with approved accommodations should notify the Director of Clinical Education and Clinical Instructor before the start of the course.