Attendance and Disability

Students need to be aware that exceptions to attendance policies may not always be possible given the nature of the individual course, curriculum, or program.

Please note:

The Attendance Policy Accommodation may not carry over from semester to semester. Students who receive this accommodation may be asked to supply documentation each semester validating why the Attendance Policy Accommodation needs to be in place. The Disability Specialist may ask the student to supply new, updated information on his/her condition.

It is critical that the student with an Attendance Accommodation understand:

- Students are expected to be present for all scheduled class times unless unable to attend due to an exacerbation of the symptoms of their disability.
- All students, including students who have the Attendance Accommodation, must meet the fundamental objectives and essential requirements of the class in order to successfully complete the course.
- Students are expected to inform faculty and other affected parties (i.e. clinical supervisor, field instructor, Disability Specialist, etc.) when they miss class and why.
- In case of an emergency, student must notify faculty and other affected parties as soon as possible.
- It is the student’s responsibility to work with faculty to determine how best to compensate for any missed classes/course work.
- Students need to observe deadlines for submission of assignments. There may be limits on the amount of time which assignments can be completed. Often this is based on the complexity and type of course.
- We strongly suggest that students meet with their instructors during the first week of the semester to discuss this accommodation
- Students should familiarize themselves with each individual course attendance policy as stated by the instructor or in the class syllabus.

Discussion points for student, disability specialist and faculty member

- Is attendance an essential part of the class?
- Would modification of attendance policies be a fundamental alteration of the course or curriculum?
- Are classroom interactions and dialogue between the instructor and students a fundamental element of the course?
- Is there important classroom discussion between students facilitated by the instructor?
- Does student participation constitute a significant component of the learning process for the class?
- Does the fundamental nature of the course rely on student participation as an essential method for learning?
- To what degree does a student’s failure to attend class constitute a significant loss to the educational experience of the class as a whole?
- Are attendance requirements listed in the course syllabus? What are the classroom practices and policies regarding attendance?
- What method is used to calculate a final grade for the course?
- The Office of Accessibility is available for consultation when faculty becomes concerned when the number of absences begins to fundamentally alter the essential elements of the course. The faculty member, Disability Specialist, and student can discuss what options are available to the student at that time.