

Types of Disabilities, Accommodations and Assistive Technology

Disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a record of such physical or mental impairment, or being regarded as having such an impairment under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Disability	Sample Accommodations	Assistive Technology
Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing <i>Completely or partially unable to hear in one or both ears.</i>	Interpreter, real-time captioning FM system Notetaker Visual aids Written assignments, lab instructions, summaries, notes Use of email for class and private discussions Visual warning system for lab emergencies	Hearing Aids Assistive Listening Device - Ex. Phonic Ear Closed captioning Cochlear implant (personal choice) Video phone; TTY/TDD; sidekick
Learning Disability <i>Operational definition/criteria vary. Generally diagnosed when an individual's achievement in reading, math or written expression is substantially below expected age, schooling or level of intelligence.</i> Ex. person who is capable of learning , but may learn differently; dyslexia, dyscalculia	Notetaker and/or audio-taped class sessions Captioned media - Ex. films, videos Extra exam time, alternative testing arrangements, reduced distraction environment Visual, aural, and tactile instructional demonstrations Computer with voice output, spellchecker, and grammar checker Calculator Electronic text	Mind mapping or organizing software – Ex. Inspiration Text to Speech software (visual & audio) – Ex. Kurzweil 3000/Read-Write Gold Daisy players/electronic text/closed captioning Spell checker/dictionary – Ex. talking electronic dictionary (Franklin speller), Microsoft Word
Other Health Impairments <i>Conditions having limited strength, vitality, or alertness due to chronic or acute health problems.</i> Ex. Sickle cell anemia, leukemia, Tourette's Syndrome, hemophilia, renal disease, ADHD	Notetaker Flexible attendance requirements Extra exam time, reduced distraction environment Assignments made available in electronic format Use of email to facilitate communication	Depends on functional limitations caused by the health impairment.

<p>Physical or Mobility Limitation</p> <p><i>Disability that limits the physical function of limbs or fine or gross motor ability.</i></p> <p>Ex. uses wheelchair, crutches, orthotics/prosthetics; paralysis; result of cerebral palsy or polio</p>	<p>Notetaker, lab assistant, group lab assignments</p> <p>Classrooms, labs, and field trips in accessible locations</p> <p>Adjustable tables, lab equipment located within reach</p> <p>Lengthened pull-chains on safety showers</p> <p>Class assignments made available in electronic format</p> <p>Computer equipped with special input device -Ex. voice input, alternative keyboard</p>	<p>Voice Input software – Ex. Dragon Naturally Speaking</p> <p>Alternative keyboard – Ex. on screen keyboard, Head Mouse, EZ Keys, Augmentative and Alternative Communication Devices (AAC), one handed keyboard, key overlay, touch screen</p> <p>Mouse – trackball, switch</p>
<p>Psychological Disability or Mental Illness</p> <p><i>A diagnosable mental disorder causing severe disturbances in thinking, feeling, relating, functional behaviors, and substantially diminished capacity for coping with the ordinary demands of life</i></p> <p>Ex. depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, anxiety disorder</p>	<p>Preferential seating in classroom</p> <p>Notetaker and/or audio-taped class sessions</p> <p>Extra exam time, reduced distraction environment, alternative testing arrangements</p> <p>Textbook and class materials in an alternate format</p> <p>Advance notice of assignments</p> <p>Permit beverages in classroom</p>	<p>Audio/Electronic text</p> <p>Various computer software programs</p>
<p>Visual Impairment/ Low Vision</p> <p>Partially sighted</p> <p><i>Best-corrected visual acuity of 20/70 or less in the good eye.</i></p> <p>Ex. central or multiple field vision loss or tunnel vision due to diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, glaucoma, cataracts, etc.</p>	<p>Seating near front of the class</p> <p>Large print handouts, lab signs, and equipment labels</p> <p>TV monitor connected to microscope to enlarge images</p> <p>Class assignments and notes made available in electronic format</p> <p>Computer equipped to enlarge screen characters and images</p>	<p>Magnification software– Ex. Zoomtext</p> <p>CCTV (Closed-Captioned Television)</p> <p>Portable magnifier - Ex. Clarity, Amigo Lenses</p>

<p>Visual Impairment/ Low Vision Blindness</p> <p><i>Legally blind is defined as best-corrected visual acuity of 20/200 or less, or a visual field of no more than 20 degrees.</i></p> <p><i>Functional blindness is the absence of any usable vision.</i></p>	<p>Audio-taped, Brailled or electronic-formatted lecture notes, handouts, and texts</p> <p>Verbal descriptions of visual aids</p> <p>Raised-line drawings and tactile models of graphic materials</p> <p>Braille lab signs and equipment labels, auditory lab warning signals</p> <p>Adaptive lab equipment - Ex. talking thermometers, calculators, light probes, and tactile timers</p> <p>Computer with optical character reader, speech output, Braille screen display, and printer output</p>	<p>Screen reader (audio) – Ex. JAWS, Dolphin Supernova, K1000</p> <p>Tactile models</p> <p>Refreshable Braille keyboard</p> <p>DAISY player/mp3 player</p>
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Compiled from various resources including:

Do-it Center: <http://www.washington.edu/doit/Brochures/Academics/teachers.html>

High Tech Center Training Unit: <http://www.htctu.fhda.edu/>