



POLICY STATEMENT

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COORDINATED BY: Office of Student Development

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SUBJECT: STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

I. PURPOSE

To ensure equal opportunity for all qualified students without regard to disability in the recruitment of, admission to, participation in programs and activities operated and sponsored by the University pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and other related federal and state laws.

II. POLICY

LSU Shreveport is committed to providing an accessible campus and equitable learning environment, where people with disabilities are integrated into the social and economic mainstream. This policy applies to all students with disabilities, whether graduate or undergraduate, full-time or part-time, online or on campus. Further, the University prohibits discrimination against qualified students with disabilities and integrates all students into the University community to the fullest extent possible.

LSUS policy calls for reasonable accommodations or adjustments to campus policies and procedures for individuals with documented disabilities. These accommodations and adjustments are made on an individualized and flexible basis so that no qualified student with a disability will be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity.

The University promotes an atmosphere to prevent discrimination against people with disabilities.

III. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The University recognizes that effective provision of reasonable accommodations is a collaborative effort among various campus entities.

1. **Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD):** Determines eligibility and coordinates all disability-related support services and academic accommodations in collaboration with other University departments, as necessary for enrolled students with documented temporary or permanent disabilities at the University. SSD also provides information on services for students with disabilities to potential students and their families and serves as a campus resource for matters concerning persons with disabilities.
2. **Online Learning and Faculty Development:** Provides training and support to faculty on matters involving accessibility of instruction in the online environment. Assists faculty with instructional design and in ensuring course content is accessible.
3. **Faculty:** Monitors and ensures provision of recommended accommodation within the academic environment.
4. **Facility Services:** Provides technical support on matters involving University facilities and premises and is responsible for monitoring accessibility of University facilities and premises by persons who are disabled.

IV. ADMISSIONS AND RECRUITMENT

Recruitment of students and decisions regarding admissions will be made without regard for disability. Qualified applicants with a disability will not be denied admission or subjected to discrimination in admission or recruitment to the University based on their disability. There are no limitations on the number or proportion of students with disabilities who may be admitted. Applicants are not required to self-identify as a person with a disability; therefore, any disabling condition is unknown to the University and bears no influence on admission. When requested, reasonable accommodations are made to ensure access during New Student Orientation. It is the responsibility of the student to submit his/her request to the Coordinator for Students with Disabilities for consideration.

While applicants are not required to self-identify, students who voluntarily self-identify as a person with a disability in the admission process will be provided information on services available to students with disabilities at the University.

A decision not to self-identify is not permanent. Students with disabilities can request assistance at any time during their enrollment.

V. REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE AND ACADEMIC ADJUSTMENTS

LSUS strives to make the learning environment inclusive and accessible to all students. However, there are times students with a disability may require accommodation to fully access programs and services. Students requiring accommodation on the part of the University are advised to contact the Coordinator for Students with Disabilities. Where appropriate and when the modification does not violate the academic integrity of the curriculum, course, or program, reasonable academic adjustments are arranged to ameliorate the impact of a disabling condition.

The Coordinator will not assume that students will return the following semester and therefore will not automatically make arrangements unless specifically requested for a subsequent term.

VI. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The University strives to resolve conflict at the lowest level possible. When a question arises about the denial or appropriateness of an accommodation, it is the responsibility of the faculty members and the student with a disability to first consult with the Coordinator in a timely manner to reach a resolution. If the conflict cannot be resolved at that level or if the grievance is with an action of the Coordinator, the grievance will be forwarded to the Dean of Students for resolution.

VII. RETALIATION

The University will not discriminate against any individual for filing a charge of discrimination, opposing any practice or act made unlawful by the ADA or for participating in any proceeding under the ADA. In addition, the University will not coerce, intimidate, threaten, or interfere with any person in the exercise or enjoyment of his/her rights under the Act or because he/she aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of rights under the ADA.

VIII. CONFIDENTIALITY

The University is committed to ensuring all disability-related information regarding a student is maintained as confidential as required or permitted by any law. The University will request only such information about an individual's disability as is necessary for those changed in making an accommodation decision. Any information collected and maintained for determining academic adjustments is considered an educational record. The Dean of Students may disclose disability-related information with other University personnel with a legitimate educational interest.

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