



OFFICE OF ACCESSIBILITY

Using Your Accommodations-Mercy College

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Mission

Accommodations

Collaboration

Consultation

Education

Support

Services

The mission of the Office of ACCESSibility is to collaborate with and empower students who have disabilities in order to coordinate support services, reasonable accommodations, and programs that enable equal access to an education and college life. ACCESS serves as a resource to other departments and colleagues and works to provide regular training opportunities, advisement, and consultation on equal access, compliance, delivery of equitable services, and universal design. Additionally, ACCESS provides opportunities and resources that will facilitate the development of self-advocacy, self-efficacy, and adaptive skills in students to overcome barriers a disability may present.

(914) 674-7764

Accessibility@mercy.edu

Sara Venezian, Interim Director
Christina Locario, Accessibility Specialist

Dobbs Ferry

M – F
9:00am – 5:00pm
MH 121

Bronx

By appointment

Manhattan

by appointment

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Understand your Disability

It is important that you understand your disability. Begin to learn the things that you do well, in addition to the things that are difficult for you. This will aid in identifying what assistance has and will be helpful to you in dealing with your disability.

Plan Ahead

Beginning your college career means that you will need to organize and arrange things in your life in a way that you may not have done previously. Financial cost, time demands, study schedules, and coursework vary greatly from high school. College courses require increased study time outside of the classroom and expectations of your performance are greater. A way to successfully meet these expectations and increased demands is with effective planning. Apply for financial aid early. Consider the number of hours it will be necessary for you to work. Make arrangements for transportation.

Family and personal responsibilities and time commitments must be considered. Set realistic goals and priorities for course work.

Self Advocacy

YOU are responsible for requesting support services. Make contact each semester, as early as possible, to discuss what your needs will be. If your needs have changed and you would like to revisit your accommodations or discuss other resources, please let us know as soon as possible. Remember, you are your best advocate! Tell us what you need. If you are unsure, we are happy help you figure it out.

Speak to your Professors

At the start of every semester contact each of your instructors to provide them with a copy of your Accommodation Memo for that term, and discuss your accommodations. Take this opportunity to advocate for your instructional needs as well as your needs in a classroom environment. You are legally entitled to the accommodations listed on your Memo. If you ever run into any issues regarding the accommodations listed on your Accommodation Memo, please let us know immediately.

Make Contact Often

You may want to contact your professors and the ACCESS regularly to discuss your progress and to identify your needs in each class. Keeping in contact with your professors and this office will help you succeed.

Be Aware of Procedures and Deadlines

If you must take your exam outside of the classroom, it is your responsibility to make arrangements at least **one week** before the exam with the testing office. This is especially important for mid-term and final exams. We may not be able to accommodate you if you do not give advance notice.

PROCEDURES FOR RECEIVING ACCOMMODATIONS

Once you are registered with the Office of ACCESSibility, you will need to follow the procedures below to ensure that you receive your accommodations each semester.

Accommodation Memos

- It is your responsibility to give the memo to your instructor each term. If you don't give it to them, they won't know you have accommodations.
- Memos are linked to the class, not the instructor. Give the memo to your instructor even if you have had them in the past.
- When giving your memo to your instructor...
 - Take the opportunity to discuss your academic needs with them and how you function as a student. Advocate for your needs.
 - Bring an extra copy of your memo for them to keep.
- Faculty should sign memo and give it back to you. This is your receipt.
- You can request an updated copy of you accommodation memo through the Health Portal.
- To ask about changing or adding accommodations, contact ACCESSibility office.

Testing Accommodations

- For all exams/quizzes requiring specific accommodations, student should complete and submit the Proctor Request online: <https://www.mercy.edu/student-affairs/access/proctor-request-form> or email the form to: accessibility@mercy.edu
Students can find copies of the form at mercy.edu/student-affairs/access.
 - Forms should be submitted 7 days in advance to guarantee the accommodation. Late forms will be accepted and we will make every effort to accommodate, however 7 days notice is required to guarantee the accommodation.

Assistive Technology & Alternate Format Text Accommodations

- Please submit necessary forms within the first or second week of the semester to accessibility@mercy.edu
- Students can find the online version to this form at mercy.edu/student-affairs/access

Best Practices:

- ➔ Submit signed memos to The Office of ACCESSibility
- ➔ Submit your request forms in time
 - Proctor Request Form
 - Alternative Format Text Form
 - Assistive Technology Form
- ➔ Communicate with ACCESSibility regularly regarding your accommodations. It is your responsibility to advocate for your needs. We can't help you if we don't know what is going on.

Any other questions or concerns, please contact the Office of ACCESSibility immediately.

