

Savannah State University provides services and accommodations to students with disabilities in order to ensure equal access to the academic environment and enhance the learning experience.

Who is an "individual with a disability?"

A person who:

- (1) Has a physical or mental impairment (including learning disabilities as well as psychological disorders) which substantially limits a major life activity;
- (2) Has a record or history of such an impairment; or
- (3) Is regarded as having such an impairment.

What are "major life activities?"

Major life activities include, but are not limited to, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, working, attending school, caring for oneself and performing manual, professional, and academic tasks.

What are some examples of disabling conditions?

Conditions which entitled a student to receive special education while attending grade school (e.g., learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, serious emotional disturbances), AIDS, cancer, alcohol or drug addiction, diabetes, asthma, physical disabilities, behavior disorders, and etc. that substantially limits a major life activity.

What are the obligations of students with disabilities?

In order to enjoy the protections of Section 504 and the ADA, the student has an obligation to self-identify that s/he has a disability and needs accommodation. Savannah State University requires that the student provide appropriate documentation at student expense in order to establish the existence of the disability and the need for accommodation.

What are the institution's obligations under Section 504 and the ADA?

Savannah State University must provide reasonable accommodations to the student's known disability in order to afford him/her an equal opportunity to participate in the institution's programs, activities and services (including extracurricular activities). A college or university may not discriminate against an individual solely on the basis of disability.

What are some examples of reasonable accommodations that an institution might be expected to provide its students who have disabilities? Savannah State University must provide a student academic adjustments to ensure that s/he receives an equal opportunity to participate.

Examples of academic adjustments may include:

- (1) Additional time to complete tests, coursework, or graduation;
- (2) Substitution of nonessential courses for degree requirements;
- (3) Adaptation of course instruction;
- (4) Tape recording of classes; and
- (5) Modification of test taking/performance evaluations so as not to discriminate against students with sensory, manual or speaking impairments (unless such skills are the factors the test purports to measure).

Savannah State University must also provide auxiliary aids and services to persons with disabilities such as:

- (1) Qualified interpreters, and note takers;
- (2) Readers, taped texts, audio recordings, large print and/or materials in Braille;
- (3) Acquisition or modification of equipment.

Helpful Websites

www.ada.gov/

www.ahead.org/

www.services.georgiasouthern.edu/rcld/

www.gsu.edu/~wwwrld/Resources/helpfultips.htm

Shawntell Phoenix-Martin

Disabilities Advisor

King-Frazier, Suite 233

Phone: 912.303.1650

Email: phoenix@savstate.edu