



Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Disability?

A disability is an impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. Examples of major life activities include walking, listening, reading and learning.

Do I need to tell anyone about my Disability?

It is your choice whether or not you disclose your disability, even to your instructors. If you want to receive accommodations, you must provide documentation of your disability to Disability Support Services (DSS).

How do I document my Disability?

You need to provide a statement from a competent professional (a doctor, psychiatrist or other professional) that verifies the functional limitations caused by your disability. For example, a student that has a diagnosis of cerebral palsy may have difficulty writing. The functional limitations may include lack of fine motor control. Recommended accommodations may include a scribe or the use of voice activation software during exams and a note taker for classes.

When should I provide documentation?

You are strongly encouraged to complete an application and provide documentation before the term in which you will need the services. We need to have these materials before you can receive accommodations and services through Disability Support Services.

Where is my documentation kept?

In accordance with state and federal law, documentation regarding your disability is kept in a separate confidential file at DSS and will not be part of your academic record.

How does SIUE use information about my Disability?

Disability Support Services needs sufficient information in order to determine eligibility and effective accommodations for each student. We may use non-identifying information about your disability to gather statistical information for planning and allocation of resources.