
**LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
SCHOOL OF NURSING**

Subject: American Disabilities Act Standards
(From Student Handbook)
Approved by: Signature on File
Title: Dean, School of Nursing

Policy Number: SS-3
Effective Date: 10/12/07
Replaced Policy Number: N/A
Dated: N/A
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PURPOSE:

School of Nursing students must confirm his or her ability to meet the Technical Standards required by the nursing school upon acceptance. The School of Nursing Technical Standards can be located in the Academic Catalogue and Student Handbook. Reasonable accommodation will be made for otherwise qualified persons with disabilities. It is the policy of the School of Nursing to adhere to standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Any student who will need special accommodations to complete a course, must submit written documentation, of the accommodations required by a qualified psychiatrist, clinical psychologist or other health care professional who is certified in the diagnosis of learning disabilities within five (5) days of the beginning of that course for each semester.

PSYCHOEDUCATIONAL ACCOMMODATION POLICY

PREAMBLE

The School of Nursing subscribes to the following definition for learning Disabilities:

"Learning disabilities are a general term that refers to a heterogeneous group of disorders manifested by significant difficulties in the acquisition and use of listening, speaking, reading, writing, reasoning, or mathematical abilities. These disorders are intrinsic to the individual, presumed to be due to central nervous system dysfunction, and may occur across the life span. Problems in self-regulatory behaviors, social perception, and social interaction may exist with learning disabilities but do not by themselves constitute a learning disability. Although learning disabilities may occur concomitantly with other handicapping conditions (for example, sensory impairment, mental retardation, serious emotional disturbance) or with extrinsic influences (such as cultural differences, insufficient or inappropriate instruction), they are not the result of those conditions or influences"

- National Joint Committee on Learning Disabilities, Letter to NJCLD member organization, p.1. 1988.

For students with diagnosed learning disabilities, the School of Nursing is committed to implementing accommodations for students which maintain student dignity without compromising the integrity of the curriculum or University standards.

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POLICY:

- Any nursing student must claim their disability in writing and submit the letter to the Assistant Dean for Student Services.
- It is the policy of the School that students submit to a professional diagnostic evaluation by a qualified psychiatrist, clinical psychologist or other health care professional who is certified in the diagnosis of learning disabilities for documentation of the disability.
- For students diagnosed with learning disabilities or cognitive deficits, the student shall provide a written report consisting of the comprehensive evaluation results, treatment recommendations and accommodation requests as applicable.
- This report is signed by qualified psychiatrist, clinical psychologist or other health care professional who is certified in the diagnosis of learning disabilities and submitted to the Assistant Dean for Student Services, LSUHSC School of Nursing.
- Reports are maintained and secured in the office of the Assistant Dean for Student Service. These reports are the basis for the following procedures being implemented.

PROCEDURE

A student or faculty member concerned about a student's academic performance may contact the Assistant Dean for Student Services to discuss the concerns and explore options. The procedure for securing reasonable accommodations in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act is as follows:

1. The point of contact for initiating, receiving and monitoring referrals for evaluation, treatment and accommodation requests is the Assistant Dean for Student Services at the School of Nursing, who may refer the student to a counselor affiliated with the School of Nursing. Diagnostic testing can be secured through the LSU Psychological Services Center, 33 Johnston Hall, Department of Psychology, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803 or any other approved and recognized health care provider qualified in the diagnosis of learning disabilities.
2. The student is responsible for paying all expenses related to the diagnostic evaluation for a learning disability.
3. Once the psychoeducational evaluation is completed, students are required to provide a written release to the Diagnostic and treating specialist(s) giving permission for the evaluation, treatment and

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accommodation report to be communicated to the Assistant Dean for Student Services.

4. The Assistant Dean for Student Services will review the Report(s), meet with the student to discuss the accommodation request and may at his/her discretion, clarify follow-up recommendations with the treating specialist.
5. Once the psychoeducational report is received by the Assistant Dean for Student Services and the student accommodation conference is complete, the Assistant Dean will sign and issue a written Accommodation Request within 3 working days after the diagnosis is confirmed. If the diagnosis is not confirmed, the student will be denied an accommodation in writing.
6. The student is responsible for submitting and discussing the Request within 5 working days with the course director of each course and at least within the first 5 days of the course. The course director will advise the student as to the student's responsibility to notify each faculty member teaching within the course at the same time. (The course director may wish to notify course faculty or may require the student to complete the notification). In all cases, the student must retain a copy of the Accommodation Request.
7. When the Psychoeducational Report indicates continuing treatment, the treating specialist may be asked to provide written reports (every two months) of a student's compliance with the treatment plan to the Assistant Dean for Student Services.
8. When accommodation strategies change, the student is required to submit the change in writing to the Assistant Dean for Student Services.
9. Accommodation requests are effective for one semester and reissued for additional semesters. Students receiving accommodation in the learning environment are to meet with the Assistant Dean for Student Services during each semester to evaluate the student's response to the accommodation strategy and to determine any adjustments in the treatment plan which may be warranted. A formal written referral for additional treatment/consultation may be initiated by the Assistant Dean for Student Services based on the evaluation conferences.
10. Students are expected to practice self-advocacy. This means students recognize and meet the learning needs specific to their learning disability without compromising the dignity of themselves or others. Recognizing that the procedures described herein support the policy and standardize the application of the accommodation

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process, students are expected to adhere to the procedures as responsible partners in the Accommodation policy.

Form: ADA Accommodation Testing and/or Make up Request Format

Approvals/Reviews:

Date: 10/12/07

By: Administrative Council

Date: 9/24/07

By: Faculty Organization