

Fast Facts for Faculty

Syllabus Disability Statement

Disability Statement Definition:

A statement placed on course syllabi indicating a faculty member's willingness to provide reasonable accommodations to a student with a disability.

An example disability statement that can be used/adapted for course syllabi:

Any student who feels s/he is experiencing any barriers in obtaining information in the class or effectively demonstrating what you know based on the impact of a Disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. You will also need to register with Disability Support Services(located in the Center for Academic and Student Success in the Student and Enrollment Center Building) at 691-8600 x282.

Rationale:

The statement should be an invitation to students who have disabilities to meet with the faculty member, in a confidential environment, to review course requirements and to discuss their need for accommodations.

Principles:

- The accommodation process should be one of collaboration between student and instructor with support/verification from Disability Support Services(DSS).
- Students already working with DSS have provided that office with documentation of their disability. Faculty should not ask the student for documentation, however, they will be provided with a pink accommodation form which verifies necessary accommodations for equal access.
- A statement on the syllabus and an announcement in class normalizes the accommodation process by treating it as just another part of the course.
- The statement can be altered to meet the specific needs of your department/courses.
- It is recommended that instructors for multiple section courses and labs come to an agreement on the syllabus statement used.

"A disability statement opens the lines of communication making the student feel more comfortable approaching faculty to disclose their disability and need for accommodation". Jennifer Aaron, Student self-advocate