

Disability and Modification FAQs—for students

What is considered a disability?

Any physical, mental health, or learning impairment that limits a major life activity.

How can I receive modifications?

Follow instructions from the “How do I get started?” PDF on the LDSBC Disability Services website.

What modifications are available to me?

Modifications are considered on an individual basis determined on the clinical information and diagnosis and by an interactive dialog between you and a representative from disability services. Because of this interactive and individual process, it isn’t possible to say what modifications will be available to you. Some modifications may include:

- Additional time for testing
- Quiet, distraction reduced environment for testing
- Copy of instructor lecture notes or PowerPoint presentations
- Preferential seating in class
- Accessible materials
- Assistive technology
- Notetaking

Do I have to pay for my modifications?

No. The College provides reasonable modifications to eligible students with disabilities at no charge.

Do my instructors know what my specific disability is?

No. The letters the faculty receive strictly talk about your modifications. You may disclose your disability if you would like to, but you are not required to.

Do I have to request modifications if I have a disability?

No. You only have to request modifications if you want to use them in your studies. Modifications will not be suggested or offered unless you identify yourself as a student with a disability and request them.

Should I make an appointment with disability services even if I’m not sure I have a disability?

If you suspect you may have a disability but are unsure, you are welcome to make an appointment to discuss your situation. If your situation has never been assessed or if you need further evaluation, we can often help by referring you to community resources as appropriate.

If I am receiving modifications at another college or university, will I automatically receive modifications at LDSBC?

Not necessarily, as differences in procedures and documentation requirements may vary from one institution to the next. Given this, we cannot guarantee that accommodations/modifications in place prior to attending LDSBC will automatically be available. However, we are committed to giving full consideration when evaluating specific disability-related requests.

What documentation does disability services need?

The type of documentation needed depends on the nature of disability. Documentation needs to be provided by a qualified professional authorized to diagnosis the disability. For mental health disorders, this typically includes physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, therapists/counselors, or social workers. For physical health disorders, this typically includes documentation from a physician, physician's assistant, nurse practitioner, neurologist, or other qualified professionals. For visual disabilities, qualified professionals include physicians, ophthalmologists, and optometrists. For hearing disabilities, qualified professionals include physicians and audiologists.

What if I need to make changes to my modifications?

Modifications can be modified over time as disability-related symptoms changes or unanticipated academic demands arise in a new semester. Contact the disability services to schedule an appointment to begin the process.

How do I let my professors know about my modifications?

Request for letters of modification must be made each new semester or term. You will receive a modification letter to give to your teachers and discuss with them how it will work in their class.

Are modifications retroactive?

No. Modifications begin when you give your teachers the modification letter and they are not required to grant the modifications retroactively (though they may choose to). It is important to make sure you give the modifications letters to your teachers as soon as possible.

What services are offered for temporary medical conditions?

Temporary medical conditions such as broken limbs, surgery, flu, and pregnancy are not usually considered disabilities. However, these students may visit with a disability services representative to brainstorm options for handling their situation. Services provided by disability services (e.g., note taker, exam reader/scribe) may be considered; however, documentation from the treating physician will be required to continue the intake process.