

SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE OF LAW

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Policies for Accommodating Law Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of the college to provide reasonable accommodations to otherwise qualified students, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. In order to receive accommodations, a student must have a documented disability that has substantially impaired a major life activity and the requested accommodations are necessary to minimize the effect of the disability on the student's educational opportunities. Reasonable accommodations may include adjustments or modifications to course loads, examinations, and auxiliary services.

The college is obligated to make reasonable accommodations only to students with known disabilities. The college will provide reasonable accommodations to students who have a permanent disability that substantially impairs a major life activity of learning in the law school setting. Reasonable accommodations are accommodations that do not fundamentally alter the nature of the educational program; impose an undue administrative or financial burden on the law school; lower academic or other performance standards; compromise the validity and reliability of the exam; or provide an unfair advantage to the student.

Students requesting accommodations must submit the Student Application for Accommodations and the requisite documentation to the Office of Student Academic Affairs by October 15 for the fall semester; March 15 for the spring semester; and June 15 for the summer session. The Student Application for

Accommodations and the Directions for Documenting Physical Disabilities, Learning Disabilities, Attention Deficit Disorder, and any other Medical, Physical, or Mental Illness are available in the office. A personal interview is required and is part of the determination process.

In no circumstance will a student be given retroactive consideration for an exam retake, change in grade, readmission, or other such actions or events due to a qualified disability discovered or disclosed to the college after the deadline for the action or event in question.

If your Student Application for Accommodations is denied, you may appeal the decision to an ad hoc committee consisting of three members appointed by the Dean. To appeal, submit a letter to Assistant Dean Singleton stating the specific reasons of your appeal. The appeal does not include a hearing at which new evidence or oral arguments will be considered. The committee will not consider for the first time information that was not previously submitted to and considered by the administration in making the initial decision regarding a request for accommodations. The decision of the committee is final.

A noninclusive referral list of qualified diagnosticians and health care providers is available in the Office of Student Academic Affairs. Students who identify physical barrier concerns should immediately report them to the Office of Student Academic Affairs.

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Signature of Student

Date

