



*The*  
**UNIVERSITY**  
*of* **VERMONT**

Policy V. 3.4.12.1

Responsible Official: Vice President  
for Student and Campus Life

Effective Date: January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008

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## **Disability Certification and Support – Students**

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### **Policy Statement**

The University of Vermont is committed to providing an educational atmosphere and experience that is accessible to all qualified students, including students with disabilities. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794 (Section 504), and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. 12131 (the ADA), prohibit institutions such as the University of Vermont from discriminating against qualified students with disabilities and require that reasonable and effective academic accommodations be provided to such students. It is, therefore, the policy of the University of Vermont not to discriminate against disabled students in any program or activity of the University for which the student is qualified, and to provide reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to such students with due regard for the integrity of academic programs.

### **Reason for the Policy**

This policy establishes that the University of Vermont does not discriminate against qualified students with disabilities and that the University is committed to working with such students to provide reasonable accommodations to support the students' success in their educational programs. This policy further establishes that the Office for Accommodations, Consultation, Collaboration, and Educational Support Services ("ACCESS") is the University office responsible for providing students with information on how to obtain certification of a disability and how to seek reasonable accommodation for a disability.

### **Strategic Direction**

This policy supports the following goals in the University's Strategic Plan:

- Create a diverse community
- Create an outstanding student experience that promotes personal and intellectual development
- Focus the human, fiscal, environmental, technological and physical resources of the University on institutional values and priorities
- Recruit and retain excellent students, faculty and staff

## **Applicability of the Policy**

This policy applies to any student seeking accommodation for a disability at the University of Vermont.

## **Definitions**

*Disability:* A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

*Qualified Individual With a Disability:* An individual with a disability who, with or without reasonable accommodations, meet the academic and technical eligibility requirements and standards of behavior and performance required of other students.

*Reasonable Accommodation:* A reasonable accommodation is one that will allow a student with a disability to have an equal opportunity to participate in, and enjoy the benefits of, a service, program or activity of the University without an undue administrative or financial burden to the University. Reasonable accommodations may include adjustment to activities, space or the physical plant of the University. Reasonable accommodations may also include appropriate academic adjustments. Academic adjustments that lower or substantially alter the essential elements of a program, course or curriculum are not “reasonable accommodations.” Accommodations that pose a direct threat to the health or safety of the student or others are not “reasonable accommodations.”

## **Procedures**

Students who wish to be considered for a reasonable accommodation for a disability must contact the ACCESS Office. Faculty approached by a student asserting that he or she has a disability requiring accommodation must refer the student to the ACCESS Office for initial certification of whether the student has a disability and for appropriate process to determine potential reasonable accommodations. Procedures applicable to students requesting accommodation for a disability may be found at: <http://www.uvm.edu/access/>

Documentation of disability furnished by the student will be kept confidential and will be shared with University personnel only with permission of the student, except as is otherwise required by law. If the documentation provided is determined to be insufficient

by the staff of the Certifying Office, the Certifying Office reserves the right to request additional documentation considered reasonably necessary to determine appropriate and effective accommodations on the college level.

If a student believes that he or she has been discriminated against at the University because he or she has a disability, is perceived as having a disability, or is affiliated with an individual with a disability, the student should contact the Office of Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity for further information, assistance or to make a complaint.

<http://www.uvm.edu/~aaeo/>

## **Contacts**

Questions related to the daily operational interpretation of this policy should be directed to:

Director of ACCESS (for students requesting accommodations)  
A-170 Living Learning Center  
University of Vermont  
Burlington, Vermont 05405  
(802) 656-7753

Executive Director Diversity and Equity (for discrimination concerns)  
428 Waterman Building  
University of Vermont  
Burlington, Vermont 05405  
(802) 656-3368

The Vice President for Student and Campus Life is the University official responsible for the interpretation and administration of this policy.

## **Forms**

None

## **Related Documents/Policies**

Equal Opportunity in Educational Programs and Activities and Non-Harassment:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmppg/ppg/student/equaledu.pdf>

## **Effective Date**

Approved by the President January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008