

Accommodations

Attendance Accommodations:

- A student with a documented disability, especially one related to a chronic health condition, may qualify for consideration in regard to class absences and/or tardiness. Such an accommodation is simply a request for flexibility in a faculty member's course attendance policy. The amount of flexibility will depend on the nature of the class and whether class participation is a factor in the final grade.
- A student with a disability who is requesting attendance flexibility as an accommodation is ultimately responsible for completing all required coursework. This is not a "blank check" that allows a student to have excessive absences in any given course. In such cases, the student should consult with their instructor about the options to withdraw from the course with a passing grade or to receive an incomplete grade where appropriate.

Office of Civil Rights Cases that guide determination of attendance flexibility as a reasonable accommodation:

1994: This case determined that requests for accommodations for absences due to a disability should be considered on an individual basis. The accommodation should be provided unless the accommodation threatens the integrity of the course as offered. If a course grade is dependent on attendance, it is important that the student and instructor discuss the issue so that the student can make an informed decision about alternatives.

1996: The following six factors should be used in considering if attendance is an essential element of a course:

- Are there classroom interactions between the instructor and the students and among students?
- Do student contributions constitute a significant component of the learning process?
- Does the functional nature of the course rely on student participation as an essential method for learning?
- To what degree does a student's failure to attend constitute a significant loss to the educational experience of the other students in the course?
- What do the course description and syllabus say?
- What are the classroom practices and policies regarding attendance?

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