



Student Access Office  
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## **Adelphi University Housing Accommodations Policy and Procedures**

Adelphi University provides housing accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1978, and the Fair Housing Act to ensure equal access to Residential Life programs, activities, and facilities. Adelphi University's Residential Life and Housing is committed to achieving access and does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. This policy derives from the University's commitment to non-discrimination for all persons, access to facilities, student programs, activities, and services and addresses reasonable accommodations. Adelphi University is fully committed to the full participation of students with disabilities in all aspects of College life, including residential life.

The learning environment and residential living are central to the Adelphi University experience. It should be noted that living within the community and learning to share space and be considerate of others is part of that learning experience. Therefore, requests for special housing accommodations (as an ADA, Section 504, Fair Housing accommodation) based on a student's preference or desire for "privacy" and "quiet space" rather than need, or for a particular type of living environment/location are considered exceptions to this policy and will not be honored (e.g., a student diagnosed with ADHD or a learning disability seeking a single room to serve as a distraction-free, undisturbed place to study, concentrate, etc., represents a preference, but not a necessity.) Additionally, by virtue of the shared facilities, resources, and number of people living under one roof, it is not reasonable to assume that having a single room would provide for privacy and/or a quiet, distraction-free space to any appreciable degree beyond living in a standard double or triple room. Should it be determined through the petition review process that a student does not qualify for a housing accommodation under these aforementioned federal laws will be referred to Residential Life and Housing for participation in the Room Selection Process

To submit requests for accommodations based on accessibility, please contact Student Access Office (SAO), Post Hall, First Floor, (516) 877-3806 for Petition and supporting Documentation Guidelines. Petitions and guidelines can also be obtained from SAO web page, [sao@adelphi.edu](mailto:sao@adelphi.edu)

The Director of the Student Access Office will review documentation supporting a request for equal access housing accommodations. All Information is considered confidential. In order to be considered for reasonable accessible housing accommodations, students should make every effort to supply the above forms and documentation to the SAO by the following dates:

**REVIEW OF HOUSING REQUESTS BASED ON A LEARNING, MOBILITY, OR OTHER HEALTH DISABILITY RELATED NEED IS DETERMINED ON** a case by case basis. Requests should be submitted to SAO for review and consideration.

The following is a summary of the factors considered when reviewing housing accommodation requests:

#### **WHAT IS THE IMPAIRMENT?**

An impairment is a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act only if it substantially limits one or more major life activities. An impairment is substantially limiting if a person is unable to perform an activity as compared to an average person in the general population. Three factors must be considered in determining whether a person's impairment substantially limits a major life activity. These are:

- its nature and severity
- its duration, how long it will last or is expected to last
- its permanent or long term impact, or expected impact.

#### **WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT TO A MAJOR LIFE ACTIVITY?**

A major life activity is an activity that an average person can perform with little or no difficulty. Examples are walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, caring for oneself, sitting, standing, lifting, reading. Therefore:

- what is the specific barrier to access
- how does the barrier impact functioning
- is the accommodation request reasonable and appropriate

#### **TIMING OF THE REQUEST**

- Was the request made with initial housing request?
- Was the request made before the deadline for housing requests for the semester in question?
- Was the request made as soon as possible after identifying the need? (Based on date of diagnosis, receipt of housing assignment, change in status, etc.)

#### **FEASIBILITY & AVAILABILITY**

- Is space available that meets the student's needs?
- Can space be adapted to provide the requested configuration without creating a safety hazard (electrical load, emergency egress, etc.)?

- **Are there other effective methods or housing configurations that would achieve similar benefits as the requested configuration?**
- **How does meeting this request impact housing commitments to other students?**

In order to consider requests for a single room based on the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Fair Housing Act, in addition to documentation, we require the following information:

- ❖ Diagnosis, including ICD-9 codes and date of diagnosis.
- ❖ How does the disability make it **impossible** for the student to live with a roommate?
- ❖ Does the impairment qualify as a disability that **substantially** limits the ability to perform one or more major life activities? How and which activities?
- ❖ Is impact of the condition life threatening if the request is not met?
- ❖ Is the request an integral component of a treatment plan for the condition in question?
- ❖ Are there other ways to meet the student's needs that allow full participation in the Adelphi academic and residential/roommate experience? If not, why not?

**A qualified individual must provide the evaluation:** The assessment must be provided by a *licensed* professional qualified to make the evaluation, such as a medical specialist, psychologist or psychiatrist. An assessment from a general practitioner typically does not suffice.

**Returning Students: April 1**  
**New Students: June 1**

## **HOUSING ACCOMMODATION REQUEST DEADLINES**

**New Incoming Students: Deadline is May 31st**

**Returning Students: Deadline is March 18th**

This deadline was established to enable the University sufficient time to review requests and for consideration to be given to specific housing-related needs for students with disabilities before the complex housing assignment process for all Adelphi students begins.

If you have a need for a housing accommodation which arises for the first time after the March 18th deadline, email [sao@adelphi.edu](mailto:sao@adelphi.edu) to make it known that you will be submitting a post-deadline request. The Housing Accommodation Committee will strive to determine and, for those deemed eligible, meet newly arising needs for housing accommodations as soon as reasonably possible given the limited availability of housing options following the assignment process.

**Appeal Process:**

If a student with a documented disability believes that he/she has not be provided with a reasonable housing accommodation based on access or reasonable consideration, the student should direct their concern to the Dean of Student Affairs or designee. The student must provide, in writing, the nature of the concern and any other relevant information. The decision of the Dean of Student Affairs or designee is final.