

TO: Faculty

FROM: Disability Services

RE: Class Attendance and Flexible Deadlines as accommodations for Students with Chronic Health Conditions

This semester, there is a student in your class who is diagnosed with a chronic health condition. When a student has a chronic condition with acute episodes, modifications to class attendance policies and deadlines may be appropriate and should be considered on an individual basis.

Please note: If the student can get the information from the book, homework or other ways, and could do well on the exams without benefit of the lecture and interaction, the Americans with Disabilities Act with Amendments (ADA-AA) indicates we cannot penalize him/her for missing classes when the absence is disability related.

The student still needs to meet the essential functions of the class (like everyone else), which may or may not include attendance in the classroom and meeting certain deadlines. In accordance with the ADA-AA, faculty should consider the following questions when determining if attendance or meeting a particular deadline is an essential function.

- Does the course rely on student participation as a method of learning? (consider the percent of overall points awarded for participation)
- Do student contributions constitute a significant component of the learning process?
- What does the course description and syllabus say about attendance and meeting deadlines?

If attendance and meeting certain deadlines are essential functions of the class, then the student must attend and adhere to the attendance policy and meet any deadlines as written in the course syllabus. Examples of a class where attendance is an essential function would be a lab, a language pronunciation course, a discussion-based class, or a class involving several student presentations.

The student also has responsibilities in the accommodation process which include:

- Maintaining regular contact with the instructor throughout the entire semester regarding the status of their condition.
- Notifying the instructor of any absences (in advance, if possible, or immediately after an acute episode).
- Completing any missed work that occurs due to a disability related absence within the stated attendance policy.

Instructors need to permit make up work when the absence or delay in submission of work is disability related and falls within the parameters of the stated attendance policy and established deadlines. Any absences beyond the stated policy require an individual meeting with the instructor, student and a Disability Services Counselor to assess if the student can meet the essential functions of the class.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding class attendance and flexible deadlines for students with disabilities, please contact our office at (734) 384-4167. Thank you for your cooperation.