



Southern Connecticut State University

DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

Spring '21 Semester -- Syllabus Disability Statement

Dear Faculty Member:

Hope you had a good Christmas and New Year's holiday considering the substantial impact of the pandemic. As you prepare for another semester, we encourage you to begin the semester with a general announcement or statement in your course syllabus, inviting students to discuss their need for course accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services. A disability statement opens the lines of communication, making students feel more comfortable when approaching faculty to discuss their need for course accommodations or other disability-related needs. A syllabus statement also helps to ensure that all students are aware of the existence of the Disability Resource Center.

The University has designated the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as the office where documentation regarding a student's disability is reviewed, appropriate accommodations are determined, and documentation is on file. Reasonable accommodations are determined on a case-by-case basis because the functional limitations of each individual and the specific demands of each course may vary. In some cases, the staff of the DRC may consult with a faculty member to determine the essential standards of a course or program of study in order to determine what constitutes an appropriate accommodation.

An example of a course syllabus statement that you can adopt

A statement on the syllabus and an announcement in class normalizes the accommodation process by treating it as another routine part of the course. This statement should be modified to meet the specific needs of your department and course.

“Dear Student, Southern Connecticut State University provides reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, for students with documented disabilities on an individualized basis. If you are a student with a documented disability, the University's Disability Resource Center (DRC) can work with you to determine appropriate accommodations. Before you receive accommodations in this class, you will need to make an appointment with the Disability Resource Center located at EN C-105A (203-392-6828). To discuss your approved accommodations with me or other concerns, such as medical emergencies or arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment to meet as soon as possible. My office location and hours are...”

Role of Faculty in Implementing Approved Accommodations

- ◆ Faculty should request that a student bring an *Accommodation Letter* from the DRC to verify the student's needs and eligibility for accommodations
- ◆ Ideally, the accommodation process should involve collaboration between the student, instructor, and the DRC
- ◆ Faculty are encouraged to contact the DRC if there are any concerns about a student's approved accommodations

For Further Information

Please visit the DRC website at www.southernct.edu/drc and look under the section titled "Information for Faculty and Staff" or call the DRC at 203-392-6828.

Thanks for your usual cooperation and good luck with the semester.

The Disability Resource Center
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On the Web: www.southernct.edu/drc