

Accommodations FAQs: Students

Where is Slippery Rock University's Office of Disability Services (ODS) located?

ODS is located in room 105 of the University Union. Hours of operation are from 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM during the fall and spring semesters and until 4:00 PM during spring, summer and winter breaks. Access to ODS can be gained via accessible parking, stairs or a ramp with railings, and an accessible push button automatic door entrance into the building, as needed.

Who can be registered with ODS?

Any enrolled or soon to be enrolled SRU student who has a valid student ID and SRU email may request accommodations through ODS. The student must self-disclose a documented disability/diagnosis which includes one or more of the following:

- Learning disabilities (such as dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, reading/math disability, specific learning disability, etc.)
- Medical health (such as cardiac disease, diabetes, arthritis, cancer, seizure disorder, etc.)
- ADD/ADHD
- Physical/mobility impairments (ambulatory, wheelchair)
- Hearing impairments
- Visual impairments
- Emotional/psychological diagnosis (such as bipolar disorder, depression, anxiety, etc.)
- Autism spectrum disorder
- Traumatic brain injury
- Temporary disabilities - disabilities existing only for a short period of time (6-months or less) as a result of injuries, surgery or short-term medical conditions

NOTE: Documentation is required and must follow the documentation guidelines set forth by ODS. All requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Please visit www.sru.edu/ods for details on acceptable forms of documentation. SRU is committed to accommodating students with disabilities and helping them to achieve academic success.

What does the ODS offer students?

ODS provides students with reasonable accommodations and services to ensure equal access to education as intended by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008. Accommodations are approved on a case-by-case basis and intended to uniquely serve each student.

How does ODS support educational parity on campus?

ODS works with both students and faculty to provide assistance, education, and guidance regarding each party's role in the educational process for students with accommodations. ODS helps by:

- providing ample resources on our website for both student and faculty review
- including those same resources in the resource library of the *Accommodate* software system, a system used to maintain ODS operations with both student and faculty access
- participating in presentations across campus including FYRST seminar, within various courses on campus, at various student worker trainings, and as panel members for various education discussions on campus
- presenting to faculty at new faculty orientation, through professional development opportunities, college meetings, department meetings, or individually as requested

What is an accommodation?

Accommodations are modifications to conditions that would otherwise cause a student, because of a disability, to be at a disadvantage relative to students without a disability in their access to the university's programs for students.

Reasonable accommodations provide equitable access to programs or facilities and do not fundamentally alter the essential nature of a course or academic program. Course content and objectives cannot be modified.

What are some examples of accommodations?

Examples of accommodations may include, but are not limited to, extended test time, a separate test location, assistive technology, note-taking services, a test reader, a test scribe and/or the use of computer for testing, preferential seating, and enlarged print. Other accommodations specific to the student's disability must be requested and approved. All accommodations are determined on a case-by-case basis.

How many accommodations can I have?

The amount of accommodations a student is approved for is determined on a case-by-case basis. Factors that play a role are the student's requests, the documentation provided, the student's self-report, and if the accommodation is reasonable.

How do I access these services?

To request accommodations and be considered for approval, students must start the process by completing an [accommodation request](#). Once submitted by the student and reviewed by ODS, the student will receive an email to confirm the request has been received and ask the student to contact ODS and schedule a Welcome Meeting. This is the first initial meeting that takes place with ODS and includes an opportunity for the student to provide a self-report, for ODS to review documentation, and discuss potential accommodations. Accommodations can be determined, agreed upon, and approved at the Welcome Meeting. Yet, in some cases, ODS may request additional documentation, deny a request, and/or need to complete further research to determine how reasonable and appropriate the accommodation requests are.

What happens if I miss class due to my disability?

It is recommended that all students who are enrolled in on campus classes attend classes regularly. The nature of taking on campus classes is to attend in a classroom setting. However, if a student is approved for a consideration for absences accommodation, ODS has an established procedure for disability related absences that the student must follow. Please note that this accommodation does not mean that the student can miss as many classes as they want or are automatically excused when a class session is missed.

Besides accommodations, what else does the ODS offer?

ODS collaborates with many offices across campus and can serve as a great resource for students. ODS is happy to provide any student with information, as needed, regarding the tutoring center, the writing center, the student counseling center, student success coaches, student support, student health services, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), and job postings from Bender Consulting Services, Inc. In addition, we can offer weekly meetings, check-ins, and both equipment and software support as needed.

What if I have questions?

Please contact ODS using the information listed below:

Main Office Line: 724-738-4877

Email: disabilityservices@sru.edu

Location: 105 University Union

Dr. Natalie Burick, Director: natalie.burick@sru.edu

Kim Coffaro, Assistant Director: kim.coffaro@sru.edu