

Temporary Diagnosis Guidelines

The following guidelines are used by the Office of Accessibility Services in order to guide students who are **temporarily disabled** and seeking academic assistance.

Temporary disabilities (e.g. concussion, broken bone, post-op status) **are not included** under Section 504 of the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)* of 1990 as permanent disabilities and thus are not eligible for accommodation through the OAS. OAS recognizes that students may become injured or otherwise temporarily disabled and that this may impact their academics for a short period of time. Any allowances a faculty member may choose to offer a student is done so outside of the ADA guidelines for a permanent diagnosis. While such allowances are not titled *accommodations*, OAS strongly encourages faculty to offer allowance so that a student may fully demonstrate their mastery of a topic or project goal, without the impact of the temporary diagnosis on their final product or grade. Please note that the OAS cannot mandate that faculty offer additional time for completion of assignments for a temporary diagnosis.

The Office of Accessibility Services may support a student with a temporary diagnosis impact in the following ways:

1. **Meeting** with the student during the period of the temporary diagnosis to support time management, academics, and meeting course requirements.
2. **Reviewing** available accommodations through OAS, which may be granted at a faculty member's discretion as *allowances* to a temporarily disabled student. Common supports include:
 - a. **OAS Testing Center** use for regularly scheduled or make-up exams requiring additional time. The student is responsible for making all arrangements with faculty for tests to be delivered to OAS.
 - b. **Computer** (without internet access) to compose short answers/essays on exams
 - c. **Note Provision** for class lectures. OAS will discuss options and provide the steps a student can take to obtain a class note-provider.
 - d. **Scribing** - OAS will provide *speech-to-text* technology for written portions of exams. Arrangements should be made a minimum of 3 days prior to a scheduled exam.
 - e. **Mobility concerns:**
 - i. Access to class spaces (e.g. distances between classes, 2nd floor locations).
 - ii. Helping students to create a plan to navigate between the two locations of the Simmons campuses (Residence campus and Main campus).
 - iii. Recommendations to help secure assistance with carrying books and personal belongings. OAS is unable to provide this assistance.

We invite you to send an email inquiry to access@simmons.edu or call for information to 617-521-2658. To learn about OAS and the steps to register, please refer to our website: simmons.edu/access