

What Students With Disabilities Need To Know About Attendance

Class attendance policies are not determined by the Office of Disability Services. Because attendance may be integral to the learning process, these policies are set by faculty at the departmental or individual level.

In some cases, attendance is fundamental to course objectives; for example, students may be required to interact with others in the class, to demonstrate the ability to think and argue critically, or to participate in group projects. In other instances, faculty may determine that students can master course content despite some or many absences.

Similarly, instructors also determine policies regarding make-up work and missed quizzes and exams. Instructors are not required to lower or effect substantial modifications of standards for accommodation purposes.

Students should listen closely to each instructor's announcements on the first day of each class regarding his/her attendance and makeup policies. Most instructors also include such information in the course syllabus.

For episodic conditions, ODS can include a statement on the Disability Accommodation Memo which indicates that periodic disability-related absences may occur. This statement verifies the legitimacy of periodic absences and may be used by students with these conditions to initiate discussions of attendance and makeup policies and procedures with instructors.