Our AIM: Bringing you better Accessibility Services

Services for Students with Disabilities
Spring 2023
Overview

Context

Accommodation

Language Updates

AIM Database Overview

Sample Letter
Interactive Process

1. Request
   You request accommodations through SSD.

2. Research
   We learn about the barriers together.

3. Ideation
   After we gather info, we brainstorm ways to reduce or eliminate those barriers.
Follow Through

The Implementation
You let us know whether they are effective!

Accommodation
We create your letter and you share it with your instructors.

STEP 05
Graduate Student Support

Services for Students with Disabilities

- Courses
- Milestones

Graduate Student

- Degree Program
- Teaching or Research Assistant

ADA and Accessibility Services

STUDENT AFFAIRS
VIRGINIA TECH.
Timeline

• 2019: Purchased the **Accessible Information Management (AIM)** database

• 2020: The Americans with Disabilities Act celebrates 30 years and the COVID-19 pandemic drive an increase in student registrations

• 2022: Customization of the AIM database for Virginia Tech begins

• **Fall 2023**: First-time Virginia Tech students will use AIM for registration, appointments, and letter requests
Accommodations Language

Improve Clarity, Readability, and Consistency

- Consolidating
- Archiving
- Simplifying language
Simplify: No Evening Tests

Approximately 5 versions in our files
What it means…

Tests and quizzes should be scheduled so the end time (including any additional time accommodation) is not later than 5:00 p.m.
Testing Module required us to divide some:

Continuous access to food/water/medicine

15-minute break
Efficiency Mission

Smooth out the process of distributing letters

- Avoid last minute requests
- Easily available list of all students' requests in a class
Emailed Course Accessibility Letters

Letters will now come directly to the instructor of record listed in Banner from AIM.
Faculty AIM Portal

See and export a list of all students who have requested accommodations for your class(es)
Student Changes Summarized

Changing for Students
1. Digital application process
2. Letter request process
3. Course Accessibility Letter (format and delivery)
4. Some accommodation language
5. Ability to self-schedule appt

Staying the Same
1. Test reservations through OTRS until 2024
2. Requesting a Volunteer Notetaker process until 2024
3. Requesting Alternate Format Text process until 2024
Faculty Changes

Changing for Faculty
1. Course Accessibility Letter (*format and delivery*)
2. Some accommodation language
3. Ability to review all student accommodations for your class
4. Will seem like more accommodations

Staying the Same
1. Make test reservations through OTRS *until 2024*
2. Volunteer Notetaker process *until 2024*
Summary

Check the Faculty Hub

Check your login

Share the update with colleagues

Invite us for a Dept. Mtg.
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Acknowledgements

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Supplemental Materials
Accommodations where UD is absent
Accommodation Buckets

Time

Environment

Tools

Participation

Possibilities

Possibility

Possibility

Possibility

Possibility
Classroom Access Points

- Materials
- Tasks
- Assessments
- Space
Class Accommodation Buckets

- Exam Time
- Early Access to Slides
- First Floor Classes
- Building with an Elevator
- Software
- Adjustable Table
What Is ADA?

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal regulation originally passed in 1990 and amended in 2008.

ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability with regards to:

- Employment
- Physical and programmatic access in state and local government
- Physical and programmatic access in places of public accommodations
- Commercial facilities
- Transportation
- Telecommunications
Reasonable Accommodations and Authorized Offices

University Policy 4075

- Students: Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)
  - SSD serves Undergraduate and graduate students for academic accommodations.
- Employees: ADA and Accessibility Services
  - Graduate students for workplace accommodations
  - Student workers for workplace accommodations
- Visitors: event or activity sponsor