

Welcome to the Disability Management System— Student Access Office (SAO)

The staff at the Disability Management System—Student Access Office (SAO) welcomes you to Duke University. The University is committed to equality of educational opportunities for qualified students with disabilities in compliance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Acts of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. The Duke University Disability Management System—Student Access Office is charged with exploring possible coverage and reasonable accommodations for undergraduate, graduate and professional students who are disabled for purposes of the ADA and Rehabilitation Act.

The goal of the SAO is to provide and coordinate accommodations, support services and programs that enable students with disabilities to maximize the quality of their experience at Duke University. Services and accommodations are provided to students with a variety of disabilities including but not limited to attention deficit hyperactivity disorders, learning disorders, psychological disorders, blindness or low vision, deafness or hard of hearing, mobility and chronic health, and other disabilities.

The staff of the SAO encourages students and helps them understand the nature of their disability and its impact on their living and learning at Duke University. Students are provided with opportunities to learn about their rights and responsibilities, about ways to request accommodations, and about the wide range of programs and opportunities available at Duke University on campus. The SAO staff also seeks to help students become self-advocates in the university setting. Students are encouraged to learn to speak and act on their own behalf and gain self-advocacy skills that can be applied throughout their undergraduate years at Duke, as well as after graduation in their chosen careers.

This handbook is designed to inform incoming Duke students, prospective Duke students, and other interested persons about the services available to students with disabilities at Duke University. It includes information about the SAO staff, the transition from high school to college, the rights and responsibilities of students with disabilities and of Duke University, and the procedures and policies governing the application and implementation of reasonable accommodations. Students, their families, and other interested persons are encouraged to contact the director of the SAO with any questions or concerns that they may have.