

General Information About Disabilities At Duke University

Admissions at Duke University

Colleges are prohibited from making pre-admissions inquiries about disabilities. College applicants with a disability are not required to self-identify in the admissions process. Applicants need to be reminded that admissions to a particular program is dependent upon meeting academic standards and other requirements, regardless of disability status.

For an application for admissions, contact:

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions
Duke University
P.O. Box 90586
Durham, NC 27708
Phone: (919) 684-3214
Fax: (919) 681-8941

A student with a disability who has provided information in the admissions process concerning his or her condition should not assume that information will be forwarded to the Disability Management System—Student Access Office. Students who wish to be considered for reasonable accommodations should follow the procedures outlined in this handbook.

Consideration for Reasonable Accommodations

In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations for purposes of the ADA and the Federal Rehabilitation Acts, a student must have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities such as, but not limited to, hearing, seeing, speaking, breathing, performing manual tasks, walking, caring for one's self, and learning. "Substantially limiting" refers to an impairment that prevents an individual from performing a major life activity or significantly restricts the condition, manner, or duration under which the average person in the general population can perform the same major life activity. Documentation of a student's disability, therefore, should provide evidence of a substantial limitation to one or more major life activities. Students should review documentation guidelines posted on our website at www.access.duke.edu.

Please be aware that Duke University reserves the right to determine if a condition or diagnosis rises to the level of a disability under the ADA and what constitutes reasonable accommodations according to the documented nature of the disability.

Selecting Courses for your First Semester at Duke

Before registering for courses for your first semester at Duke you are welcome to call the SAO director or disability specialist to discuss how your disability may effect your course selections. For example, you may need ample travel time between classes. You may also call to schedule an individual conference with the director and/or disability

Prospective & First-Year Student Handbook

specialist during freshman orientation or any time during the fall drop/add period. The SAO staff can provide you with information regarding your academic advisor, classroom locations, travel time between classes, and other logistical information. (See contact information on the staff page of this handbook or call 919-668-1267).

Foreign Language Requirements at Duke University

Students applying to Duke University should know that the foreign language requirement is fundamental to the Trinity College curriculum. Waivers and course substitutions for foreign language requirements are not currently available for any student at Duke including those with disabilities. Students who have foreign language learning concerns are encouraged to contact the SAO director.

Housing at Duke University

Housing is available for eight regular semesters at Duke University. If you have a disability that requires accessible housing accommodations, please contact the SAO as soon as possible to discuss your needs. This will enable the SAO to assist you in arranging accessible housing. Students must also complete and submit the first year housing form to Residence Life and Housing Services, which is responsible for undergraduate housing assignments.

Financial Aid at Duke University

Financial aid is available for eight regular semesters at Duke to students with demonstrated need. In addition, students who register for summer school will have their full demonstrated need met for two Durham or Marine Lab campus summer terms. These two terms need not be consecutive. Financial aid is also available to eligible students accepted to Duke approved study abroad programs. With the existence or extenuating circumstances and with the approval of a student's academic dean, financial aid may be made available to students who are granted an additional semester to complete their undergraduate program. For more information please contact:

The Undergraduate Financial Aid Office
2106 Campus Drive
Box 90397
Durham, NC 27708-0397
Tel (919) 684-6225
Fax (919) 660-9811
Email Address: finaid@duke.edu

Touring the Duke University Campus

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions conducts tours of the Duke University campus. If you or members of your group need accessible accommodations or disability related information, please call the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 919-684-3214 in advance of your visit so that they can make appropriate plans—which may include your parking, transportation, and/or communication needs. If you have additional questions please feel free to call the Disability Management System—Student Access Office at 919-668-1267.