

## SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH SHORT-TERM DISABILITIES



University life is unpredictable. Students may require temporary accommodations due to a short-term disability such as a broken bone or complicated pregnancy.

**Instructors and students can often work together to minimize classroom barriers without DRC involvement. We invite you to consult with us during drop-in hours as needed for additional guidance.**

### DRC DROP-IN HOURS

Monday-Friday  
9:00-12:00 and 1:00-4:00

No Drop-in Tuesdays 10:00-11:00 A.M.

This document contains strategies and resources over and above those noted in the **U of M Policy** regarding legitimate absences.

## Access is everyone's everyday work.

Please review suggestions for both students and instructors to understand a range of possibilities.

### What can students do?

Students who need temporary accommodations can:

- Speak with instructors right away to develop a plan.
- Share documentation from your healthcare provider that indicates estimated recovery time, treatment plan and follow-up appointments you will need to attend.
- Consider barriers in classrooms, labs, studio or physical education classes.
- Explore a reduced course load and/or discuss incompletes with your instructors.
- Discuss the impact of schedule changes on financial aid with OneStop.
- Speak with your advisor to plan next steps and learn about the process for withdrawal and leave of absence.
- Contact Housing and Residential Life for on-campus housing modifications.
- Discuss workplace accommodations with your supervisor.

### What can instructors do?

Instructors can take steps to informally accommodate students with short-term disabilities.

- Provide time extensions for exams or assignments.
- Allow students to record lectures if taking notes is difficult.
- Share your notes or PowerPoint presentations, or ask students to serve as peer note takers.
- Contact classroom management (612-625-1086) for alternate seating or room arrangements.
- Provide lab assistance as needed.
- Consider the essential elements of your course and whether alternate forms of participation and access to course content are possible and reasonable:
  - Allow student to join lecture via online video (Skype, Facetime, Hangouts, UNITE videos).
  - Invite students to office hours.
  - Post discussions or course content to Moodle
  - Create voicethreads on Moodle.



## What resources are available?

Please explore the resources below. Each bolded resource is linked to its website in the digital version of this document at [z.umn.edu/stdisability](http://z.umn.edu/stdisability).

### GETTING AROUND

- **Paratransit** (612-624-8338) is a curb-to-curb service for anyone with short- or long-term disability-related transportation needs.
- Wheelchair and scooter rentals are available through various sources in the area including **Handi Medical\*** and **Fairview Home Medical Equipment.\***
- **Campus maps** indicate accessibility of university buildings and transportation routes for the campus circulator and campus connector.

### FACILITIES

- **Adaptive Technologies** are available or can be arranged at many on-campus computer labs.
- **Classroom management** (612-625-1086) can assist you in identifying accessible seating options for your classrooms.
- **Locker rentals** are available on East Bank, West Bank and St. Paul campuses.

### SUPPORT SERVICES

- **Student Parent Help Center** (612-626-6015) assists students who are expecting or have children.
- **The Aurora Center** (612-626-2929) provides confidential support and resources related to sexual assault and relationship violence.



- **Boynton Health Services** (612-625-3222) is a physical and mental healthcare provider available to eligible students.
- **Student Counseling Services** (612-624-3323) is a mental health provider available to eligible students. Services include academic, group and individual counseling.
- **Student Mental Health website.**
- **Disability Linkage Line\*** (866-333-2466) can answer questions and find community resources about healthcare, finances, equipment, insurance and more.

## When is it important to contact the DRC?

We invite students and instructors to consult with us any time about disability-related concerns.

It may be necessary to contact us when:

- You are having difficulty communicating your needs.
- The ability to participate in academics is significantly disrupted.
- There are concerns about confidentiality.

We can also assist in the process of:

- Exploring or providing reasonable accommodations.
- Requesting classroom furniture or relocating your class.
- Providing accommodations in clinical or fieldwork training, field trips or physical education classes.

\* All resources are on the Twin Cities campus unless noted with an asterisk.



Disability Resource Center  
Office for Equity and Diversity

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**Driven to Discover<sup>SM</sup>**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT DRC

612-626-1333

V/TTY 612-625-5572 | Fax 612-626-9654

[diversity.umn.edu/disability](http://diversity.umn.edu/disability)

email: [drc@umn.edu](mailto:drc@umn.edu)