

What Is a Reasonable Accommodation?

Accommodations are adjustments to the standard methods used to access educational opportunities at Southern Virginia University. For example, students may be eligible for extra time on an exam, or the use of a basic four function calculator.

Individual accommodations are determined through a series of questions. The answer to each question must be "yes," or the accommodation is not appropriate.

- Does the student have a disability as defined by Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act?
- Has the student provided appropriate documentation?
- Is the student "otherwise qualified" to participate in the program or course?
- With the requested accommodations, can the student perform the essential tasks of the course?
- Is the requested accommodation reasonable?
 - **An accommodation is reasonable if it:**
 - is based on documented individual needs; AND
 - allows the most integrated experience possible; AND
 - does not compromise the essential requirements of a course or program; AND
 - does not pose a threat to personal or public safety; AND
 - does not impose undue financial or administrative burden; AND
 - is not of a personal nature involving self-care or activities of daily living

Determination of reasonable accommodations is made individually on a case-by-case basis. Accommodations are not provided based simply on diagnosis, but are provided according to consideration of an individual's specific needs.