

POLICY - DIETARY ACCOMMODATIONS

Dietary accommodations are reasonable modifications or necessary forms of assistance that give a student that has self-identified with the Student Accessibility Center as having a documented disability whose health, mobility or special dietary needs may impact their ability to equally access proper nutrition through campus dining services or programs.

Based on class standing, students residing in traditional residence halls are required to be on a resident meal plan; however, we realize that in certain situations, students may need to request reasonable dietary accommodations to mitigate the impact of their disability and to meet their specific needs. The Student Accessibility Center will work alongside the Director of Dining Services to assess the needs of students requesting dietary accommodations on a case-by-case basis.

It is important to remember not all accommodation requests will be granted, and the University will not have to fundamentally alter its programs to accommodate a student. In some cases, the institution may provide an alternative reasonable accommodation rather than the specific accommodation requested.

All applications for dietary accommodations will follow the procedure below and require supporting documentation to be submitted for review. The types of documentation required may vary depending on the reported disability and/or medical condition and requested accommodations. The institution may request additional documentation even when some supporting documentation has been provided. In some circumstances, documentation of past accommodations will be considered (i.e. information regarding medically prescribed or therapeutic diet).

A student can request additions and/or modifications to their already-granted accommodations at any time with the understanding that the student may be asked by the University to provide additional documentation to support the requested additions or modifications.

Student Process and Documentation - Procedural Overview

1. Students should initiate their request with Fred Geib in dining services (fgeib@ashland.edu) and if there is a need for changes to meal plans that are contrary to Ashland University board plan policy you will be referred to the Student Accessibility Center for complete and proper documentation for your accommodation.

2. Students who need an accommodation will make a formal request using the Accommodation Request form on the Student Accessibility Center website (<https://www.ashland.edu/student-accessibility-center>) to request the accommodations. Students will be asked to self-identify medical condition/disability on this form. Student will indicate specific need and types of accommodations being requested (i.e. Academic, Housing, Dietary, Emotional Support Animal or a combination of these).

3. Once completed, the student will then receive an email from the Student Accessibility Center describing “Next Steps”. This email may also include links to necessary forms and/or follow up questions and instructions.

4. The student will submit documentation from a licensed professional. This should be the most recent and thorough medical/psychological diagnostic documentation available.

- All documentation should include diagnosis and recommended reasonable accommodations.
- Documentation can be submitted through:
 - The Accommodation Request Form provided on the website <https://www.ashland.edu/student-accessibility-center>

5. The College will determine appropriate accommodations and send Student relevant paperwork.

Some forms of documentation that we can accept:

- Individualized Education Plans (IEP’s)/504 Plans with diagnosis and recommended accommodations
- A written diagnosis letter, on professional letterhead, signed by an appropriate licensed professional with recommended accommodations
- The names and scores of psychological and psycho-educational instruments used in arriving at diagnosis, if appropriate