Student Accessibility Services

Class Attendance

Flexibility in class attendance as an accommodation is based on current documentation and is considered on case-by-case basis.

Class attendance polices are not determined by Student Accessibility Services (SAS). The number of allowable absences depends on the interactive or participatory nature of a course, or is based on department, college or accrediting agency rules. Therefore, attendance policies are set by faculty at the college or at the department level.

If attendance is determined to be essential, then students need to work with the faculty to determine the maximum time that can be missed before compromising the integrity of the course/program; the SAS Coordinator can assist in this process. The Attendance Agreement Form needs to be filled out by the faculty and the student.

Similarly, faculty also determines policies regarding make up work and missed quizzes and exams. Faculty is not required to lower or substantially modify essential course elements in order to provide an accommodation. SAS can provide faculty information regarding the legitimacy of the absences which are based on appropriate medical and/or psychological documentation.

The student needs to listen closely to faculty announcements about attendance and make-up policies and procedures. Also, check the course syllabus for information about these issues.

Flexibility with Attendance

If attendance is determined to essential to the course, then the student needs to work with the faculty to determine the maximum time that can missed. This needs to be done at the beginning of the semester. The SAS Coordinator can be consulted in this process.

When is it Appropriate to have flexibility with Attendance as an Accommodation?

When a student has a chronic condition with random or cyclical acute episodes, accommodations to attendance policies may be appropriate

Attendance accommodations should be established in advance, net retroactively. Syllabi with detailed attendance, lateness and participation policies should be a cue to students to discuss this topic with the instructor at the beginning of the semester and obtain assistance with SAS.

Please note that unexpected illness or injury, a recent diagnosis, onset or change in a condition with extended absences may warrant a withdrawal from the class or a medical withdraw.