

## **IV. General Policies**

### **A. Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

#### **1. General Policy**

The School of Law is committed to providing equal access to educational opportunities to qualified students with physical or mental disabilities, in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Accordingly, the School of Law provides reasonable accommodations to meet the needs of individual students with disabilities to ensure access to its services, programs, and activities. In providing reasonable accommodations, the School of Law reserves the right not to waive any requirement essential to the curriculum or educational mission.

#### **2. General Process for Students Seeking Accommodations**

This section of the Policy Manual outlines the University's and School of Law's general process for students seeking classroom accommodations, examination accommodations, and accommodations related to accessing the University's facilities. More specific information about the process is available on the [University's Disability Services for Students \(DSS\) website](#).

The process is a collaborative one that involves the University's Office of Disability Support Services (DSS), the Law School's Office of Student Life (OSL), the student, and faculty.

##### **a. Student Responsibilities before Receiving Accommodations**

Students with disabilities warranting reasonable accommodations must initiate contact with the [University's DSS](#) and OSL. To provide the accommodations in a timely manner, newly-admitted students should inform DSS and OSL about their need for accommodations before matriculation. Students who become disabled post-matriculation, or think they need DSS services that they previously did not receive, should contact DSS and OSL as soon as practicable after learning of their need for accommodations.

A student seeking accommodations must comply with DSS's process, by providing appropriate documentation and information including the reason for the request and specific type of accommodation requested. If DSS determines that a student qualifies for accommodations, it will issue a Verification Document to the student stating the recommended reasonable accommodation(s) the School of Law will provide.

The student then must provide a copy of the Verification Document to the School of Law's OSL as soon as possible, so the OSL can arrange for any classroom or examination accommodations, including any coordination with faculty that may be necessary to implementing the accommodations. As noted above, in providing reasonable accommodations, the School of Law reserves the right not to waive any requirement essential to the curriculum or educational mission. For examination accommodations, the student should try to provide a copy of the Verification Document to the School of Law's OSL **at least 30 days** before the date set for taking examinations.

### **b. Student Responsibilities after Receiving Accommodations (Renewal)**

Qualified students **must renew** requests for accommodations **each semester** that they attend the School of Law.

### **c. Confidentiality**

The School of Law shall maintain confidentiality with respect to students' disabilities and requests for and receipt of reasonable accommodations. In particular, the OSL will maintain disability and accommodation information in a file separate from the student's academic file.

The School of Law will not disclose such information unless necessary for the safety and welfare of either the student or others and then only to those persons that need to know. If disclosure is necessary, the student will be informed of the need for the disclosure and the person(s) to whom the disclosure is being made. The student will be requested to sign a waiver for such disclosure.

The School of Law's confidentiality responsibilities do not preclude a student from disclosing disability and accommodation information to persons within the School of Law. Any such discretionary disclosure does not waive the School of Law's confidentiality responsibilities, unless the qualified student signs a disclosure waiver.