

POLICY FOR ASSISTING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AT RIDER UNIVERSITY

Any Rider student who supplies the University with appropriate documentation of a disability is eligible on a case by case basis for reasonable accommodations, such as auxiliary aids, adjustments in academic examination time limits and locations, and various kinds of support services. Responsibility for administration of this Disability Policy falls under the Office of the University Provost.

1. Learning Disabilities, attention deficit disorders, and traumatic brain injuries: A student with a known or suspected learning disability, attention deficit disorder, or traumatic brain injury should contact the appropriate University official at the Education Enhancement Program (Academic Annex Building, Room 20, Phone: 609-896-5000 ext. 7365) for initial screening and referral.

2. Physical Disabilities, emotional and mental illnesses: A student with a known or suspected physical, visual, hearing, or health impairment, or an emotional or mental illness, should contact the appropriate University official at the Education Enhancement Program (Academic Annex Building, Room 20, Phone: 609-896-5000 ext. 7365) for initial screening and referral.

In order to review and ultimately accommodate known and suspected disabilities, the university should be provided with documentation by the student of the disability by an appropriate professional. Such documentation should include:

- A diagnostic statement identifying the disability
- A description of the diagnostic criteria and/or diagnostic tests used
- Information regarding relevant treatments, medications, assistive devices and/or services currently prescribed
- Recommendation for adjustments, adaptive devices, assistive devices, and support services
- The credential of the diagnosing professional.

(However, students without documentation who suspect a disability should see the appropriate University official for informal assessment.)

Only students with documented disabilities, which interfere with their ability to meet the requirements of an academic course or program, are entitled to reasonable accommodations, such as course adjustments and auxiliary aids. A reasonable accommodation is one which enables the disabled student to fulfill the essential requirements of the academic course or program: a reasonable accommodation does not waive or eliminate essential academic requirements.

The appropriate University officials identified above and their staffs evaluate the disability documentation provided by the student, collect additional information from the

student, and gather information from relevant educational support personnel, medical and psychological professionals, and other pertinent sources. When the student's disability has been documented fully and potential reasonable accommodations have been identified, the student is encouraged to present the Notice of Academic Adjustments Form to individual faculty and discuss the adjustments with each professor. Faculty members may contact the appropriate University official at anytime for clarifying the accommodation. A joint meeting of the appropriate University official and the faculty member with the student will be held to resolve questions concerning the reasonableness of the proposed accommodations. The student, likewise, is entitled to initiate this procedure.

In the event that such a meeting among the appropriate University official, the faculty member, and the student does not resolve any open issue(s), a qualified University official designated by the Provost will meet with them and assist in resolving the open issue(s). Where a curricular modification is requested, the official normally will be the relevant dean, who will decide the reasonableness of the request in close consultation with the affected faculty member(s) and appropriate University official.

This Policy is designed to ensure the University's compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination, and to enable every Rider student with a disability to enjoy an equal opportunity to achieve her/his full potential while attending this University. Because no Policy can anticipate every possible student request, Rider reserves the right to vary this policy under appropriate circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

UAPC Policy 98-2

A:Disability Act Proposal