

## **POLICY FOR OBTAINING REASONABLE MODIFICATIONS OF HOUSING/DINING POLICIES, PRACTICES, AND PROCEDURES**

Rider University is committed to providing equal and integrated access to Housing and Food Services for all qualified persons with disabilities.

### ***a. The Right to Reasonable Modifications of Policies***

Title III of the ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations of any place of public accommodation, such as a university. An essential component of Title III of the ADA is the right of a qualified individual with a disability to a reasonable modification of an institution's policies, where necessary, to provide the individual an equal benefit. An individual with a disability is defined by the ADA as a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of such an impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment. Students with food-related disabilities have specific legal rights under the ADA.

### ***b. Student Eligibility for a Reasonable Modification***

All qualified students with disabilities are eligible for accommodations.

It is the student's responsibility to initiate the process through Rider's Student Accessibility and Support Services Office ("SASS Office") by contacting:

Dr. Barbara Blandford,  
Director, Student Accessibility and Support Services,  
Joseph P. Vona Academic Annex 9,  
(609) 895-5492 or accessibility@Rider.edu

Students should begin the process by completing the *Housing/Dining Accommodation Request for Students with Disabilities or Severe Medical Problems*. A copy may be obtained from the SASS Office

### ***c. The Process for Determining a Reasonable Modification***

The process for obtaining a reasonable modification or accommodation begins with the student's request.

While some modifications to policies are made generally, in most circumstances, Rider's SASS Office will determine support services and reasonable modifications on an individual basis. They do this in consultation with the student, and when necessary, qualified professionals, or others with helpful information.

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In the context of reasonable modifications, Rider's Student Accessibility and Support Services Office may ask for documentation concerning an individual's disability and the need for modifications, if such documentation is:

- Necessary (when the manifestation of an individual's disability is not readily apparent);
- Reasonable; and
- Limited to the need for the modification requested

Documentation may come from a physician, clinician, or other qualified professional provider who may set forth recommended modifications.

In accordance with Title III of the ADA, we will make reasonable modifications to our rules, policies, practices, and procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations to individuals with disabilities.

We do not charge individuals with disabilities for reasonable modifications or other actions required by the ADA.

### ***d. Confidentiality***

We are committed to ensuring that all student disability information is maintained confidentially. Disability-related information is protected under the applicable law and we handle it under strict rules of confidentiality.

We securely file a student's documentation with the SASS Office. The documentation is not kept with any other student records on campus. The information can only be shared on a limited "need to know" basis within the Rider University community.

Accommodations letters contain only the accommodation information, and not specifics of the disability. A student may choose to disclose more with others but is not obligated to do so.

### ***e. Denial of Requests***

Based on individual circumstances, SASS may deny or discontinue an accommodation or modification.

### ***f. Grievance Procedure***

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If a student disagrees with the determination made by Rider's Student Accessibility and Support Services Office to deny or discontinue a modification or accommodation, the student can have the determination heard and reviewed by:

Dr. James Castagnera  
Rider University Associate Provost and Legal Counsel,  
Provost's Suite, Moore Library 120,  
(609) 896-5035 or castagne@rider.edu

The students should complete the Accommodation Appeal Form if their request for a modification or accommodation was denied, and if the student would like to have the decision reviewed.

Complaints filed more than 120 days after the date of the alleged discrimination may impair the University's ability to address the complaint fully and provide appropriate relief, as relevant witnesses and evidence may no longer be available

**Students also may file a complaint in accordance with the Rider University Anti-Harassment and Non-Discrimination Policy if they believe the denial or discontinuation of a modification or accommodation was discriminatory. A copy of Rider's Anti-Harassment and Non-Discrimination Policy is available at <https://www.rider.edu/offices-services/handbooks-policies/ahnd>.**