

Student Disability Services

Faculty Resource Guide

Your guide to providing service to students with disabilities



West Texas A&M University

Revised by the Office of Student Disability Services
Classroom Center, Student Success Center, RM 106
806-651-2335
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Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to serve as a resource for the faculty at West Texas A&M University regarding the requirements and legal obligations related to dealing with students with disabilities. The handbook is designed as an overview. Specific questions or concerns should be directed to:

Student Disability Services
Classroom Center, Room 106
806-651-2335 (phone)
806-651-2362 (fax)

<http://www.wtamu.edu/disability>

About the Student Disability Services Office

The Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) serves as a resource for faculty, staff and students who have questions or concerns regarding accommodations for students with disabilities. The office works very closely with students who have documented disabilities to ensure access to an equal and high quality education. In addition to serving as an advocate for students with disabilities, the office also works very closely with faculty and staff members in order to monitor students' progress and encourage a positive educational experience. Faculty and staff members are encouraged to report to SDS any area of the University community that needs improvement related to the needs of students with disabilities. The SDS office has a variety of materials available for faculty and staff providing information on different types of disabilities. Please contact the SDS office if you need information or assistance regarding students with disabilities.

Syllabus ADA Statement

The following statement can be used on any WTAMU syllabus:

West Texas A&M University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required affording equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with Student Disability Services (SDS) and to contact faculty members in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodations. The SDS Office is located in the Classroom Center, room 106 and their phone number is 806-651-2335.

What does the law say?

Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act states “No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States shall, solely by reasons of his or her disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” Title II of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) states “Subject to the provisions of this title, no qualified individual with a disability shall be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subject to discrimination by such entity.”

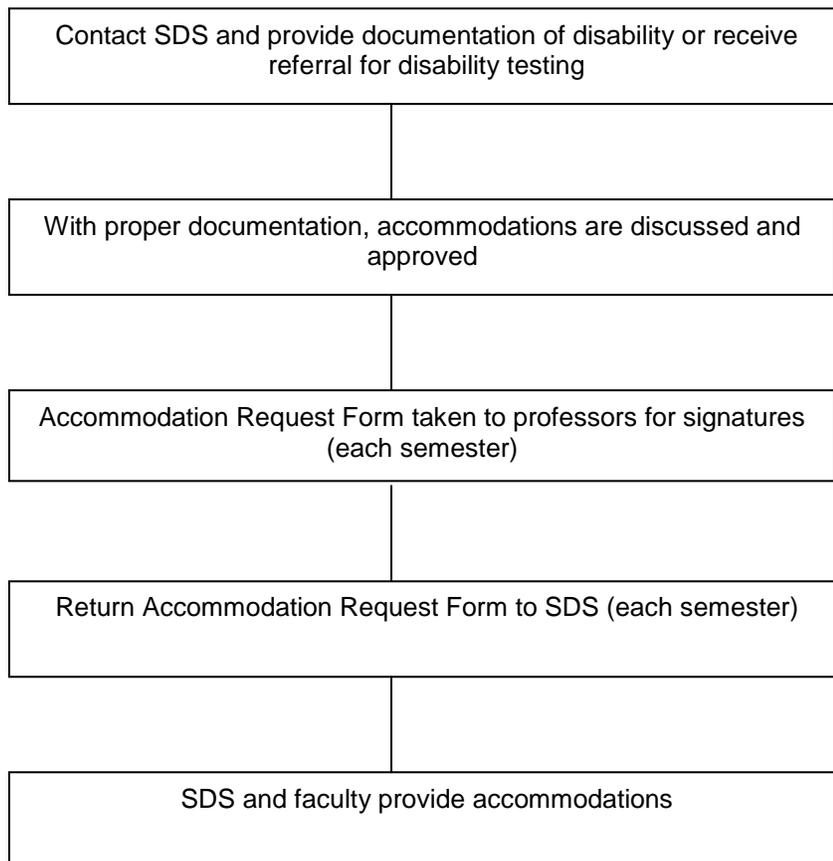
Definition of a Disability

ADA defines a person with a disability as someone who:

- *Has a physical or mental impairment, which substantially limits one or more major life activities (e.g., walking, seeing, hearing, learning, etc.)
- *Has a record of such impairment; or
- *Is regarded as having such impairment

How to?

Below is a chart illustrating the process a student must go through to receive accommodations from the Student Disability Services Office. This process can be initiated at any point during the academic year, however, students are encouraged to request services as soon as possible since some accommodations may require advanced notice.



Eligibility Requirements/ Student Qualifications

Students with disabilities must adhere to the same WTAMU admission requirements as all other incoming students. Once admitted to the University, students requesting assistance must contact SDS to determine eligibility for services.

In order to provide quality services to students with disabilities, West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) requires a student to provide verification of disability to the Student Disability Services (SDS) office at the time services are requested. This information will be used to establish the need for appropriate accommodations. A disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. A temporary disability does not usually qualify as a disability; however severity and duration will be considered.

Documentation Guidelines and Procedures

Acceptable documentation must be from a licensed professional who is qualified to diagnose the particular disability. The documentation must be from within the last five years and should reflect the following:

- Should contain a specific diagnosis
- Should include medical and educational history related to the disability
 - Level of severity of disability
 - Current medications/treatment
- Functional limitations caused by the disability
- Recommended academic accommodations

Learning disability documentation should include the Diagnostician's assessment of: Aptitude test scores and Information Processing test scores. The assessment must state the student qualifies as having a learning disability. The report should include learning accommodation recommendations from a licensed diagnostician, educational psychologist, or psychiatrist.

The request for accommodation and the supporting documentation will be reviewed by the Director of Student Disability Services who will ultimately determine eligibility in accordance with Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Director may approve or disapprove all or a portion of the requests.

Requests for accommodations may be re-evaluated within the course of the semester if the need arises.

In order to be eligible for services, the student must self-identify the disability to SDS. Self-identification means the student must discuss the documented disability and the requested accommodations with SDS.

Self-Identification

Students, in conjunction with the Director of Student Disability Services, are required to complete an "Accommodation Request Form". The student will present this form, including any approval of accommodation to each faculty member. The faculty member will review and sign the form, then the student will return the form to SDS. The form includes only information

regarding accommodations necessary and includes no specific information regarding the type of disability. The faculty member may make a copy of the form if needed for their records.

Examples of academic accommodations

Extended testing time (for both online and face-to-face)

Individual testing room

Specialized computer software

Audio textbooks

Reading of exams

Use of note takers

Recording lectures

More appropriate seating arrangements

Loan of supportive equipment

Referral services

*All requested accommodations must be reasonable and approved through SDS.

Extended Testing Time

Typically, students with an approved disability requiring extra time on exams are afforded “Time and 1/2” on all exams, including quizzes. However, some students will be allowed “double time”. These time extensions are honored for both online classes and face-to-face. Faculty members should keep these testing requirements in mind when students request alternate testing dates and times.

Secluded Testing Room

The Student Disability Services Office offers a secluded, distraction-reduced environment for students to take exams. These rooms are located in the SDS suite and students should report to the SDS office. Although many students may feel more comfortable taking exams in the SDS testing room, faculty members are not required to allow the student to take the exam in at SDS. However, the student must be given the same type of accommodation that is offered in the SDS office (e.g. distraction-reduced environment, extended time, etc.).

Specialized Computer Software

In some situations, the university will assist students by providing access to certain specialized computer software applications. The software is designed specifically to assist students with particular types of disabilities (i.e.: visually impaired students may use a screen reader program).

Audio Books

SDS employs students, faculty and staff as readers for students with disabilities. These readers will read books to an MP3 format for the student’s use. SDS is also a member of Learning Ally where students are able to download their textbook in audio format. In either case, the student needs to give the SDS office advanced notice in order to have the materials delivered in a timely manner. Requests will be prioritized based on the severity of the disability (i.e. books for those with visual impairments will be developed first). All materials must be used only by the student.

Reading of Exams

Certain students with particular types of disabilities will require that exams be read to them. SDS will honor this request either by reading the exam one-on-one to the student or by using a screen reader to read to the student.

Use of Note Takers

In situations where note takers are needed for a particular student, faculty members may be asked to identify/request another student in the class to volunteer as a note taker. Every effort should be made to respect the privacy of the student with the disability. Copies of notes can be made in the SDS Office or if the student prefers, carbon paper can be obtained from SDS.

Recording of Lectures

One accommodation that may be necessary is the recording of class lectures. The recording of class should not interfere in any way with the class instruction and the recordings should not be shared with anyone. If the use of a recording device is not conducive with the structure of the class, an alternate accommodation can be made if it meets the student's needs.

More Appropriate Seating Arrangements

If students with a documented disability request alternative seating arrangements in class, SDS will obtain the necessary desks, chairs, etc. and have the equipment delivered to the appropriate classroom. Faculty may be asked to assist students with alternative seat locations (front of the class, etc.).

Loan of Supportive Devices

Items such as computers or digital recorders may be loaned to students in order to record lectures. The student should not share these recordings with others.

Referral Services

SDS can refer students to any department or service at WTAMU. Students may need to be referred to Counseling Services, Educational Services for tutoring or study skills, or Advising. SDS will serve as a contact point for all students with disabilities needing referral.

Extending test times on WTClass for accommodation purposes.

Online students will also need to receive extra time on their timed quizzes and tests. SDS will notify faculty by email if a student in their class qualifies for this accommodation. In order to accommodate them, you may use the link below for instructions on time extensions in WTClass.

http://angel.wtamu.edu/facultyresources/wtclass_files/video/SpecialNeedsMethod1/SpecialNeedMethod1.html

If you need more assistance, please contact a WTClass programmer.

Confidentiality

All records pertaining to students registered with the Student Disability Services Office are considered confidential. Information contained within a student's file is not to be discussed with anyone other than the student without the express written consent of that student. Students will be asked to complete an "Authorization for Release of Information" in order for specific information to be discussed in general terms with faculty or staff members. Students' right to privacy should be considered in all situations.

Faculty Expectations

There are a variety of ways in which faculty members may have to accommodate students with disabilities. These students should be given equal opportunity to succeed in their educational endeavors. However, faculty members should not be placed in a position in which they are being taken advantage of. Below are a few examples of rights that faculty members have:

Faculty Members are not required to allow students any accommodation that has not been documented and approved through the Office of Student Disability Services (SDS). Students with disabilities should be expected to take exams at regularly scheduled times unless they have prior approval from the instructor and SDS. Students are not allowed to make up exams without prior approval from the instructor and SDS. Faculty members have the right to question whether the prescribed accommodation is “reasonable” in the context of a course and its requirements. For questions regarding whether accommodations are appropriate, contact SDS. Faculty members are not expected to tolerate behavior or activity that disrupts the learning environment of the classroom and/or creates a distraction for other students.

The Role of Faculty

Following are suggestions to faculty in order to better serve students with disabilities:

Make expectations, particularly those dealing with attendance policies, clear through the use of the course syllabus and class explanations. Faculty should realize that attendance may be affected due to a student’s disability or due to medication used to treat the condition. Some students may require the syllabus prior to registration or the first day of class in order to plan for or order materials for the class, such as audio books.

The opportunity to plan for assignments is very important to the students. Faculty members should provide as much advanced notice of assignments and class structure as possible for the students.

Students should be allowed to ask questions during and after class related to class discussions.

Faculty members may want to provide practice questions for upcoming exams.

Write key phrases and lecture outlines on the blackboard or overhead projector.

Assure that exams test the essential skills or knowledge needed for the course or field of study.

Be aware that some students will require extra time to transcribe or process test questions; follow Student Disability Services’ recommendations regarding extra time on examinations.

Additional materials

A student with a disability may request copies of lecture notes or overhead materials. If approved by SDS, this accommodation will be noted on the Accommodation Request Form.

Alternate format materials

Under extreme circumstances, a student with a disability may request that course materials or exams be provided in an alternate format (e.g., enlarged text, colored paper, Braille, close caption video). SDS can assist faculty who may have difficulty meeting a student’s request.

Course substitution

In extreme situations, a course substitution may be considered a reasonable accommodation provided the academic integrity of the curriculum is maintained. The university will consider a request for course substitution on a case-by-case basis.

Deadline extensions

For out-of-class assignments, the extension of deadlines may be justified. Consideration for such a request should be on a case-by-case basis. The objective of such consideration should be to accommodate the student’s disability, not to water down academic requirements.

Considerations to Keep in Mind

Appropriate language

Persons with disabilities prefer that the focus is on their individuality, not their disability, unless of course, it is the topic that is being written or spoken about. The preferred usage “students with disabilities” or “person with a disability,” stresses the group or person first and the disability second.

PERSON FIRST

A Lexicon Affirming Those with Disabilities on College Campuses

As greater numbers of persons with disabilities take advantage of the opportunities open to them in higher education, it becomes increasingly important that colleges and universities promote an environment that is positive for persons with disabilities. One of the strongest and easiest ways is appropriate language usage.

The recommended manner is known as “person first” language. This means that the person is emphasized first, the disability second. For example:

Use...

Person with a disability
Individual without speech
Woman who is blind or visually impaired
Student who is deaf or hearing impaired
Man with paraplegia
Woman who is paralyzed
Individual with epilepsy
Student who has a learning disability or specific learning disability
Person with a mental disability or cognitive impairment
Person with a developmental disability
Congenital disability

Not...

Disabled or handicapped person
Mute, dumb
Blind woman or “the blind”
Deaf student or “the deaf”
Paraplegic
Paralyzed woman
Epileptic
Slow learner, retarded, learning disabled

Crazy, demented, insane

Mentally retarded
Birth defect

It is important to describe the person, not the disability. Persons without disabilities should be referred to as “non-disabled”, not “normal” or “able-bodied.”

Rather than using words such as “confined, bound, restricted or dependent”, the most appropriate phrasing is “a person who uses a wheelchair” or “a person who walks with crutches.” Again, the emphasis is on the person.

The word, “handicap” should only be used in reference to a condition or a physical barrier. Reference should not be made to the person as being handicapped. Examples include: “The stairs are a handicap for her,” or “He is handicapped by the inaccessible bus.”

It is important to avoid labeling or group categorizations that begin with “the” (i.e., “the disabled, the deaf, the blind.”) Also to be avoided are euphemisms such as “the physically challenged, partially sighted, handicapped and special”. The use of the word “disabled” is discouraged without referring to the person first.

Taken from the Association for Education and Disabilities as prepared by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. (8/92)

Referral of students with suspected disabilities

Faculty members play a key role in identifying students with learning disabilities who have not been previously diagnosed. Many students are referred to SDS by a faculty member who, after working closely with a student, identifies that a student's academic performance on exams is inconsistent with his/her effort and apparent knowledge of the material as displayed during class discussions or on other assignments for the course. If you suspect that a student has a disability, discuss with the student a possible referral to SDS. Many of the students referred by faculty are found to have some type of a disability that impairs learning. If the student has never received a diagnosis, the SDS office may refer the student to the staff psychologist who can determine if a disability exists.

Sign language interpreters in the classroom

Students who are deaf or hard of hearing may require the services of a sign language interpreter in the classroom to facilitate communication. The SDS office will notify faculty members in advance of the semester if a student who uses interpreters is enrolled in their class. Additional needs such as alternative seating arrangements will be identified. SDS may also assist faculty members and students with additional interpreting services, for example, if a faculty member wishes to meet with a student outside of class.

Technology

Access to and the use of technology, including adaptive technology, by students with disabilities can significantly impact a student's opportunity for academic success. Like all students, students with disabilities are responsible for supplying their own calculators, lap top computers, etc.

Computer Access

If computer technology is available to all students enrolled at the university; this technology must also be accessible or made accessible for the student with a disability. This may include voice recognition, enlarged text capabilities, screen reader, adaptive keyboards, etc. SDS can refer students to the location of adaptive technology available for students with disabilities at WTAMU.

Closed captioning

If you have a student with hearing impairments enrolled in your class and you plan to show videos, check with the student to see if he/she requires closed captioning. Similar to subtitles, captions show narration, dialogue and sound contained in the program. Not all videos are closed captioned; a quick way to find out is to check the sleeve or tape box. SDS or Media Services can assist faculty members who have questions regarding captioning, however it is ultimately the professor's responsibility to ensure that their materials are accessible.

Emergency Situations

Faculty members should be familiar with the building's emergency evacuation plan and explain the specific evacuation routes and procedures to any student with a physical/mobility disability. Please note that elevators may not be a viable escape option in an emergency. Students, with the assistance of the faculty member, should identify other students in the class who can assist them in an emergency situation.

Student Conduct

Students with disabilities should be held to the same standard of conduct that all other WTAMU students must adhere to. If their behavior interrupts or detracts from your ability to teach the course, you should follow the same procedures as usual when dealing with other disruptive

students. Please keep in mind however, that some students who have learning disabilities or psychological disabilities may be slower to understand what is acceptable and not acceptable in the classroom. Additional discussions with these students may be necessary prior to referring them to campus judicial procedures. Any student, who requests professional help or behaves in such a way, should be referred to the Counseling Services office in the Student Success Center (651-2345).

*If a student is violent in any way or is disruptive, the faculty member may contact the University police department and/or refer the issue to the Behavioral Intervention Team. The faculty member may also contact the University Judicial Officer located in the Vice President for Student Affairs Office in the Jack B. Kelly Student Center.

Student Grievance/Disabilities Accommodations Appeal Process

Students with disabilities needing accommodations must request them through the Director of Student Disability Services (SDS). Any approved accommodations will be based on documentation demonstrating eligibility under state and federal regulations.

If a student disagrees with accommodation decisions made by SDS, he/she may discuss the concern with the Director of SDS. Students must demonstrate that they have made a good-faith effort to resolve the complaint with the parties involved. If the complaint is still not resolved satisfactorily, the student may visit with the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs. The Assistant Vice President may take up to five (5) working days to determine an appropriate resolution. During this process, informal discussions will take place with all parties involved in an attempt to resolve the complaint.

If no informal satisfactory resolution is determined within five (5) working days, the student may request the complaint be referred to the Disabilities Accommodations Appeals Committee. This request must be in writing to the Vice President for Student Affairs and must contain all reasons for the appeal. This committee will consist of the following or designated replacements.

Vice President for Student Affairs, Chairperson
Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs/Provost
Associate Vice President for Physical Facilities
Director of Student Medical Services
Faculty (from special education or other discipline with expertise in disability issues)
President of Faculty Senate
Student (representative of special populations)
Student (at large)

Recommendations of the Accommodations Appeals Committee will be forwarded to the President for final approval and implementation.

(For student access, this policy is listed in the Code of Student Life)



Student Registration Procedure for Student Disability Services

1. Student contacts the Student Disability Services Office (SDS)
2. Documentation no more than 5 years old is presented to the SDS office
*(If the student does not have documentation, they can be referred for testing)
3. The student and the SDS staff discuss and determine appropriate accommodations
4. Accommodations are documented on the Registration Form
5. The student makes contact **EACH SEMESTER** with the SDS office to get an Accommodation Request Form
6. Faculty members sign the Accommodation Request Form each semester
7. The Accommodation Request Form is returned to the SDS office (accommodations do not begin until the form is complete)
8. The student, the faculty, and the SDS office work together to provide accommodations
9. If a student would like accommodations to be revised, they must meet with the SDS Director and discuss concerns

If a student receives testing accommodations they must:

- *Complete Testing Accommodation Form (available in the SDS office or online)
- *One testing form must be turned in for each test
- *The testing form must be signed by the professor
- *The testing form must be turned in to the SDS office ONE WEEK prior to the test (this allows the SDS office to make arrangements for the test)

If a student receives recorded books as an accommodation, they must:

- ◆Purchase the books for the class (If books are unknown, go to bookstore webpage to “textbooks” and put in classes)
- ◆Complete the online SDS book request forms (wtamu.edu/disability; select “Request Alternative Format Books”)
- ◆Complete one form per requested book
- ◆Bring receipts for the books to the SDS office
- ◆Follow up with the SDS office to check on status of the books

(This document is handed to each student that registers with SDS)

**West Texas A&M University
Student Disability Services
VHAC Suite 218
Phone: 806-651-2335
Fax: 806-651-2362
Accommodation Request Form**

AR Return Date

After all faculty member signatures are obtained, return the form to SDS. Your accommodations will not be in effect until AFTER SDS receives the completed form.

BuffID Date
 First Name Home Phone Semester
 Last Name Cell Phone Year

WTAMU Faculty Members

The above mentioned student's disability documentation was evaluated by the Student Disability Services office. Based on this documentation, the student is entitled to reasonable academic accommodations in accordance with university policy and federal law. *The student is responsible for obtaining the signature of each faculty member and returning this form to SDS. Accommodations are not in effect until AFTER SDS receives the completed form.* The student is also responsible for communicating with faculty in advance for quizzes and exams when accommodations are required. Upon request, SDS can assist faculty in the administration of exams. *Faculty should keep a copy of this form for their records.*

If you have questions, need additional information, or if SDS can be of assistance to you, feel free to contact the SDS office.

accomms

accomms	other
testing SDS	

COURSE NAME	<input type="text"/>	COURSE #	<input type="text"/>	SECTION #	<input type="text"/>
PROFESSOR NAME	<input type="text"/>	PROFESSOR SIGNATURE	<input type="text"/>		
COURSE NAME	<input type="text"/>	COURSE #	<input type="text"/>	SECTION #	<input type="text"/>
PROFESSOR NAME	<input type="text"/>	PROFESSOR SIGNATURE	<input type="text"/>		
COURSE NAME	<input type="text"/>	COURSE #	<input type="text"/>	SECTION #	<input type="text"/>
PROFESSOR NAME	<input type="text"/>	PROFESSOR SIGNATURE	<input type="text"/>		
COURSE NAME	<input type="text"/>	COURSE #	<input type="text"/>	SECTION #	<input type="text"/>
PROFESSOR NAME	<input type="text"/>	PROFESSOR SIGNATURE	<input type="text"/>		
COURSE NAME	<input type="text"/>	COURSE #	<input type="text"/>	SECTION #	<input type="text"/>
PROFESSOR NAME	<input type="text"/>	PROFESSOR SIGNATURE	<input type="text"/>		
SDS Signature	<input type="text"/>	If You want SDS to send you a copy, SIGN BELOW			

(This document must be completed each semester for a student to receive accommodations)



Testing Accommodation Form

A Testing Accommodation Form must be completed for each exam and returned to SDS by the student. NO tests will be given at SDS without a form and at least a 24 HOUR NOTICE. Scantrons are not provided by SDS.

***Student should complete this section (print all information):**

Student Name: _____ **Phone:** _____ **BUFF ID:** _____

Course name/number/section: _____ **Semester/Year** _____

Professor (First and Last Name): _____

Accommodations for this exam: _____

If you are unable to take the test at the same time the class is scheduled, please indicate the reason:

I understand that if I do not notify SDS at least 24 HOURS before the test date, I will be required to take the test in the classroom without accommodations.

Student's signature: _____ **Date:** _____

With few exceptions, state law gives you the right to request, receive, review and correct information about yourself collected by this form.

***Instructor should complete this section:** The SDS Office contacts each professor at least one day before each exam to make arrangements. *Phones are not allowed under any circumstances while testing in our testing rooms. If we suspect that a student is using a phone or any other unapproved document/device during testing, we will immediately collect the test and the device and contact the professor for further action.

On this date _____, **the test will be taken at Time:** _____ **to** _____ **Time allotted in class:** _____

The test will be:

Delivered to SDS Picked up by SDS Emailed to SDS (sds@wtamu.edu)

****Special instructions please check all that apply.** **Open Book** **Calculator** **Notes** **None**

Other _____ **Please initial**

Contact phone number: _____

Office location where SDS should return completed exam: _____

HOLD EXAM FOR PICK UP:

I understand the above named student will receive accommodations on the test to be administered.

Instructor's signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Thank you for working with our office!

EXAM GUIDELINES

Testing accommodations can be provided for a student with a disability by the instructor of a course, his/her designee, or upon request by a faculty member or student, through the Student Disability Services (SDS) office. If a faculty member chooses to administer the exam, he/she is responsible for providing the student with the requested accommodations. To coordinate testing arrangements with SDS, the faculty member and student will need to arrange the following:

Faculty are encouraged to provide students with sufficient notice of exam dates. SDS requires a student to notify our office at least one week in advance of an exam during a long semester and two class days during summer sessions (weekends and actual test dates are excluded in counting class days). This advanced notice enables SDS to ensure the availability of a proctor and a room for testing.

The student and faculty member will jointly complete a "Testing Accommodation" form. Specific instructions regarding materials that can be used during the exam (textbooks, calculators, notes, etc.) should be included on this form. A separate form must be completed for each exam. The student's return of the form to SDS is his/her reservation for testing accommodations.

Each semester, SDS develops a testing schedule based on room and proctor availability. Therefore, every effort will be made to administer exams during these times. As needed, SDS will work with faculty if an exam needs to be administered at an alternate time.

The test should be delivered in a sealed envelope to SDS at least one working day before the scheduled test date. If preferred, the test can also be faxed or emailed to SDS.

SDS will provide a proctor for all exams. The proctor will oversee the the testing environment and ensure the accommodations listed on the "Testing accommodation" form are followed. If a proctor also serves as a scribe, he/she will only write down what is dictated by the student. If a proctor reads the exam, he/she will only read the question (and possible answers if multiple choice). No further explanation to the questions will be given. Students will not be allowed to leave SDS with an exam after it is taken unless it is noted under special instructions on the "Testing Accommodation" form.

SDS will return the test in a sealed envelope to the address given on the "Testing Accommodation" form the same day it is taken, or no later than the following work day. If you wish to pick up the test from SDS, please indicate this on the form. All tests will be locked in the SDS office if remaining overnight.

SDS will not administer an exam that has to be rescheduled without the approval of the professor.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

West Texas A&M University

In accordance with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, West Texas A&M University has procedures for the evacuation of persons with disabilities from campus facilities in the event of a fire or other emergency. The procedures outlined below are included in the university's UPPS 04.05.04 "Fire Exit Drills/Building Evacuation". If you are a faculty member, staff member or student with a physical or mobility impairment, the following information could save your life in the event of a fire or emergency.

ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Emergency evacuation plans are posted throughout campus buildings. The plans show the emergency exits to be used by persons with disabilities in the event of a fire or emergency. All employees are expected to be familiar with the plan in their area.

1. It is the responsibility of every employee to assist persons with disabilities out of the building in the event of a fire or emergency.
2. Students with disabilities who may need assistance during a fire or emergency are responsible for identifying their needs to faculty, staff, and/or residence hall staff.
3. A faculty or staff member with a disability is responsible for preplanning his/her own evacuation strategy utilizing employee or student assistance.

The following procedures should be followed in the event of a fire or emergency:

1. Assist persons with disabilities out of the building. When possible, ask the person to identify their process for the evacuation.
2. In the event a person with a disability cannot be evacuated from a building, the person should be directed to the nearest stairwell to await the arrival of emergency personnel. The Canyon Fire Department and UPD should be notified immediately that a person with a disability is in the building.

All persons with disabilities are to regard the sound of an alarm as a serious matter and evacuate the building as soon as possible. **REMEMBER, NEVER USE THE ELEVATOR IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE!**

****Sources for this Resource Guide***

Association for Education and Disabilities, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, 1992.

Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) Guidelines, 1997.

Code of Student Life, West Texas A&M University.

Faculty Training Tips: Guidance for Teaching Students with Disabilities, LRP Publications, 2005

Fire and Emergency Procedures, Environmental Safety Office, West Texas A&M University.

"Students with Disabilities, a Faculty Resource Guide", Southwest Texas State University.