

## Do's and Don'ts of Accommodating Students with Disabilities

DO'S & DON'TS	RATIONALE
Do accommodate students according to their accommodation letters.	After conversations with the student, review of recommendations from diagnosing professionals, and careful consideration, these accommodations have been determined to be reasonable and best suited to meet the needs of the student.
Don't deny accommodations or provide additional / unapproved accommodations.	Doing either of these things could lead to legal problems. Providing unapproved accommodations could also prevent the student from going to Classroom Services, where all requests are considered in a consistent way, and where the best options are provided for each individual situation.
Don't treat everyone exactly the same.	While all students should be treated fairly, what's fair is not always the same for everyone. In order to have an equal opportunity to meet their goals, students need to be regarded as individuals. There is no one size that fits all.
Don't endure a difficult student situation on your own or excuse unacceptable behavior due to a student's disability, veteran status, etc. Notify your director immediately and let trained professionals help the student.	You are responsible for teaching all of your students and would be less effective if a lot of your energy went towards just one of them. Other support services and trained professionals are available to provide the best possible help. Behavior expectations are the same for all students, regardless of individual factors.
Do hold students with disabilities to the same grading standards as all other students. Use assessment tools such as rubrics. Try grading with students' names covered.	We all have personal biases and empathy that can get in the way of objective assessment.
Don't give students sympathy points or pass them when they shouldn't be passing.	Passing students through the program when they are unable to meet standards will lead them to believe they're doing better than they are, which almost always creates bigger problems later.
Don't make adjustments to the curriculum to accommodate a student's disability. If something isn't working out, seek guidance from your director and Classroom Services immediately.	Each course contributes to a distinct aspect of the student's overall learning within the whole program. Your department has carefully mapped out the curriculum following accreditation standards. Sometimes adjustments can be made if approved by the director and Classroom Services.
Do provide a disclaimer or warning before showing images or videos that are emotionally charged or offensive. Be prepared to provide alternatives for students who opt out.	Sensitive materials may trigger undesirable reactions, especially for military vets, students with mental health conditions, students with disabilities, or students who are part of any number of minority or marginalized groups.