



UNIVERSITY
OF MARYLAND
GLOBAL CAMPUS

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

GUIDE FOR
STUDENTS

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OUR MISSION IS YOUR SUCCESS

UMGC VALUES DIVERSITY AND RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF INCLUSION BY EMBRACING STUDENT INDIVIDUALITY

At UMGC, our primary commitment is to maintain an educational partnership between students, faculty, staff, and administration. Accessibility Services—a unit within the Office of Diversity and Equity—understands that the term “disability” reflects many different characteristics and is an integral aspect of society and the university experience.

In alignment with UMGC’s core values, the mission of Accessibility Services is to coordinate access and support services that provide an equal opportunity for students to participate in all aspects of the educational environment while adhering to the university’s academic standards.

In advancing this mission, we seek to provide reasonable accommodations and services to qualified students by

- arranging academic adjustments and accommodations as mandated under the amended Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- educating and providing guidance to UMGC faculty, staff, and administrators to promote awareness and sensitivity toward individuals with disabilities
- providing students with disabilities the opportunity to acquire the necessary skills to effectively advocate for themselves in the university community

DEFINING “DISABILITY”

As stated in the Americans with Disabilities Act, a person with a disability is defined as “a person who has or is regarded as having any mental or physical condition that substantially impairs or restricts one or more major life activity.”

Eligibility for reasonable accommodations for individuals with a disability is determined based on the information provided in medical or psychological documentation. Accessibility Services staff members review documentation to determine if the student meets service eligibility criteria.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

Reasonable accommodations are modifications or adjustments that make a facility or program accessible. The goal of any accommodation is to allow a qualified individual with a disability an equal opportunity to attain the same level of performance or to enjoy the identical benefits and privileges that are available to a similarly situated student without a disability.

Accessibility Services may seek information from appropriate university personnel regarding essential standards for courses, programs, services, activities, and facilities. An accommodation is generally not considered reasonable if it would

- fundamentally alter the essential nature of the course, curriculum, or program
- pose a direct threat to the health or safety of the person with a disability or others

Accessibility Services makes the final determinations of reasonable accommodations in collaboration with the student and faculty, as needed.

WHAT CAN ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES DO FOR YOU?

If you are a prospective or enrolled UMGC student, we invite and encourage you to learn more about the variety of services we offer to individuals with documented disabilities. Visit our website at umgc.edu/accessibility, or call our office at 240-684-2287 to schedule time to discuss your questions, concerns, and accommodation needs with an Accessibility Services staff member.

You must self-identify as having a disability. This means that you are the person who has to disclose to Accessibility Services that you have a disability and that you require services.

The decision whether to self-identify is a very personal one. A decision not to self-identify is understood and respected; however, faculty members are not obligated to provide any accommodations if you are not officially registered with Accessibility Services.

THE ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES REGISTRATION PROCESS

COMPLETE THESE FIVE STEPS TO RECEIVE ACCOMMODATIONS

Step 1: Submit the Student Intake Form and documentation

After being admitted to the university, you should complete the Student Intake Form, which may be submitted digitally at umgc.edu/as-intake-form, whether you are taking classes stateside or overseas. The form is available as a PDF and may be submitted to Accessibility Services via e-mail to accessibilityservices@umuc.edu; faxed to 240-684-2590; or mailed to 3501 University Boulevard East, Adelphi, MD 20783.

To request reasonable accommodations, you must provide appropriate documentation. The documentation guidelines provided in this booklet can help you in working with a medical provider or licensed professional to ensure that evaluation reports document eligibility and support requests for reasonable accommodations. Accessibility Services staff members are also available to answer any questions regarding documentation.

The university will not pay medical providers or reimburse you for services rendered to meet the documentation requirements.

You are encouraged to start preparing your intake form and documentation as early as possible; some accommodations require significant planning in advance of the semester.

Step 2: Schedule intake discussion

After your Student Intake Form and documentation are received and reviewed, an Accessibility Services staff member will contact you to schedule an intake discussion via phone or e-mail or in person. At this time, you and the staff member will discuss your eligibility and individual needs to reach a tentative agreement on accommodations, available resources, policies, procedures, and responsibilities.

Step 3: Receive the Accommodation Notification Letter

After the intake discussion has been conducted, Accessibility Services will send you a draft Accommodation Notification Letter with the tentative agreement on accommodations. You must provide written approval before your accommodation plan can be finalized. Be sure to keep a copy of the letter for your records.

Step 4: Communicate with faculty members

It is crucial that you keep faculty members informed when asking for an accommodation. At your request, copies of the Accommodation Notification Letter will be distributed to them. You must meet with each of them to discuss how you intend to utilize your accommodation in the classroom each semester you are a registered student.

Step 5: Contact Accessibility Services each semester

It is your responsibility to request renewal of your Accommodation Notification Letter to send to your faculty members every semester you are registered for classes. After receiving your renewal request, Accessibility Services staff will review your accommodation needs for the upcoming courses. To allow for adequate time to coordinate services, it is recommended that you make this request before the beginning of each semester.

DOCUMENTATION GUIDELINES

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act allows colleges to require disability documentation to verify the need for accommodations. Follow the guidelines established by Accessibility Services as you complete the registration process.

- Documentation should be recent (completed within the past five years) to assess the current impact on academic functioning.
- Documentation must be comprehensive and establish clear evidence of a significant impact on academic functioning.
- Documentation must be relevant to requested accommodations.
- Documentation must be from a medical or other licensed professional.

Note: If documentation is incomplete or inadequate to determine the extent of the disability or reasonable accommodation(s), Accessibility Services has the option to require additional documentation. You bear any cost incurred in obtaining additional information. Please refer to specific documentation guidelines for each type of disability, found on the Accessibility Services web page at umgc.edu/as-documentation.

For additional information, visit umgc.edu/accessibility.

Contact us by e-mail at accessibilityservices@umuc.edu or by telephone at 240-684-2287.



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ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Dominique Coffee, Director
Manal White, Student Intake Manager

OFFICE LOCATION

UMGC Academic Center at Largo
1616 McCormick Drive
Largo, MD 20774

MAILING ADDRESS

University of Maryland Global Campus
Office of Diversity and Equity
3501 University Blvd East
Adelphi, MD 20783

umgc.edu/diversity