



**Cornell University**  
**College of Veterinary Medicine**

## **ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY**

It is our intention to provide reasonable accommodations for students with qualifying disabilities. The accommodations apply to classroom and examination situations and activities based in the Hospital for Animals.

Students who believe they are entitled to an accommodation should contact the Director of Student Services and Multicultural Affairs (S2009 Schurman Hall. Tel # 607-253-3700 or e-mail [jr27@cornell.edu](mailto:jr27@cornell.edu)). In order to make decisions based upon an individual's specific situation, it may take some time for the Director of Student Services and Multicultural Affairs to determine what is appropriate and fair given the nature of the disability as well as the requirements of Veterinary education. When possible, a student should initiate the process in the summer before his/her matriculation, or, if later, as soon as the disability arises.

In order to begin the review process for your request for accommodation(s), you should contact Office of Disability Services (420 Computing and Communications Center (CCC) tel # 607-254-4545) [www.sds.cornell.edu](http://www.sds.cornell.edu) to discuss your situation. This office will offer you advice and guidance on the services available to students at the University. You will also need to provide the Office of Disability Services with the following information:

- Documentation of your disability, in writing, from a physician who is familiar with your diagnosis.
- Recommendations from the physician based upon your needs for accommodation in a veterinary environment.

In addition, a copy of the above documents should be sent to the Office of Student and Academic Services in the College Veterinary Medicine.

It is possible that either the Office of Disability Services or the Office of Student and Academic Services may request additional documentation, to speak directly with your physician concerning the accommodation and/or that you be evaluated by another medical professional.

As soon as the Office of Disability Services reviews your documentation, they will send their written recommendation regarding appropriate accommodations for your disability to the Office of Student and Academic Services. It is very important that we receive their recommendation as early as possible as it is a precondition for any action taken concerning accommodations by the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Please tell the College of Veterinary Medicine what accommodations you have been granted in college and graduate school, and on standardized tests. While your prior history is relevant for determining reasonable accommodations, you should realize that we might not grant the same accommodations that you have received in the past. Your request for accommodations will be carefully reviewed according to what is reasonable and appropriate given the nature of your disability and the essential components of our academic program. The final authority regarding accommodations rests with the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

## **STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES RELATED TO ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES**

Requests for accommodations must be approved first by the Office of Disability Services, and then by the College of Veterinary Medicine. Students requesting accommodations are responsible for providing appropriate documentation of their disability.

Students who received accommodations for disability share responsibility for ensuring their needs are addressed. Specifically:

It is the responsibility of the student to inform the Director of Student Services and Multicultural Affairs of the nature of his/her disability if accommodations will be necessary.

The student must furnish documentation of the disability to the Cornell University's Office of Disability Services and the Office of Student and Academic Services in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

To protect students' confidentiality, the Office of Student and Academic Services will not initiate communication with faculty about accommodations unless the student requests it.

Once the request for accommodations has been approved by the Office of Disability Service and the Office of Student and Academic Services, the student will be provided with a letter to present to instructors in the courses the student is enrolled in. It is the student's responsibility to inform the course instructor of the need for accommodation.

Should there be a change in condition that results in a need for different conditions or should the approved accommodations prove to be ineffective, the student must request modification through the Director of Student Services and Multicultural Affairs.

All students including those receiving accommodations are bound by the academic policies of the College, including the Honor code.