

DISCLOSURE OF DISABILITIES POLICY – STUDENTS

Wells College fully supports and complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and all other federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination against individuals with disabilities. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities who are otherwise qualified.

REQUESTING AN ACCOMMODATION

If you have a documented disability and wish to request accommodation(s) to provide equal access to your education at Wells, you must disclose your disability and provide official documentation of the disability from a qualified professional who can also make recommendations about reasonable accommodations that relate to your disability. In order to disclose, you should complete the Wells College Disabilities Disclosure Form, available from the dean of students office, the dean of the college's office, the Office for Student Achievement or on the Wells College website.

The coordinator of Student Achievement is available to assist students with disabilities to arrange for reasonable accommodations. The College determines which accommodations, if any, are necessary and reasonable under the circumstances. Students with disabilities are encouraged to complete the Disabilities Disclosure Form and contact the coordinator of learning support services.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Academic adjustments must be reasonable accommodations. Whether a particular accommodation is necessary and reasonable will depend on the circumstances and the student's individualized needs. Generally speaking, the College assumes the cost, if any, of accommodations such as auxiliary aids which may be necessary for classroom participation. However, aids which assist the student in her or his daily living, such as wheelchairs, glasses, and hearing aids, for example, are the responsibility of the student.

DOCUMENTATION

Generally speaking, the cost of providing documentation to support a requested accommodation is the student's responsibility. In certain situations, the College may cover the cost of further assessment, or provide financial assistance in those cases where assessment would present a significant financial burden to the student. Requests for such assistance should be made to the dean of the college.

If you are requesting accommodations based on a disability or requesting readmission to Wells College after a leave for medical or psychological reasons, you must complete the Wells College Disabilities Form and provide documentation as specified below.

If you are requesting off campus housing, housing in a specific room or residence hall or a single room based on a disability, you must complete the Wells College Disabilities Disclosure Form and Housing Exemption Form and submit the following specific documentation in writing to the division of academic and student affairs:

1. Documentation must be provided by a qualified medical professional with comprehensive training and relevant experience in diagnosing the full range of the medical/psychological/psychiatric/mental disability for which you have been diagnosed and have appropriate licensure and certification.
2. For psychological or learning disabilities, current testing (within three years) must be attached.
3. A well-written, comprehensive report from a qualified medical professional must include the following:
 - specific medical or learning disability or diagnosable mental disorder (with a specific diagnosis based on the DSM-IV criteria)
 - specific evidence of substantially limiting one or more major life activities and how the disability affects the student in the classroom or residential campus environment
 - major symptoms of the disability
 - specific areas of educational impact
 - previous history of the diagnosis and prognosis
 - medications currently prescribed, including substantial side effects
 - rationale for specific recommended accommodations that affect academic or housing needs

The dean of students will consult with the Coordinator of Student Achievement to determine the appropriate accommodation(s) (or make a readmission decision) and will respond to your request in writing. The request will be considered on an individualized basis and may require a meeting with the dean of students and/or the disability specialist in order to better assess your needs. In order to facilitate the request, please sign the release on the Disabilities Disclosure Form granting the dean of students or Coordinator Student Achievement permission to discuss the student's condition (and how it affects the student in the College setting) with the student's medical provider.

POST-GRADUATE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Students should be aware that the GRE, LSAT, and MCAT currently have stringent documentation guidelines for individuals

seeking disability-related accommodation. Students are not guaranteed accommodation when taking these exams merely because they have received or are receiving accommodations at Wells College. Students interested in taking the GRE, LSAT, MCAT, or similar post-graduate entrance exams are encouraged to research the documentation guidelines for these exams well in advance. Students are responsible for the cost of any additional assessment or documentation which may be needed under those guidelines.

GRIEVANCE

Students who have a disability-related grievance are to follow the procedures outlined in the Wells College "General Policy on Grievances and Appeals" which can be obtained from the offices of the deans and vice presidents. It is also available in the reserve collection of the library.