

Policy on Medically Indicated Academic Accommodations for Mental Disorders for YU Students

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Policy on Medically Indicated Academic Accommodations for Mental Disorders for YU Students

Policy

This policy is set forth to highlight the reasonable accommodations and modifications to tasks or the environment that Al Yamamah University can make for eligible students. The aim is to provide individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to fairly compete and participate in academic programs and prepare them for their careers.

Accommodations

Appropriate accommodations are made for students with mental illness to provide them with equal access to classes, programs, and coursework within the university. It should be seen as a removal of a barrier to full participation; with the emphasis being on access not outcome. This is done by providing the individual with a disability equal access to the content and activities of a course in order to allow them the best possible chance, but not necessarily ensuring their success.

If a student requires accommodations to be made, they should register their disability with an official doctor's medical report stating the medical condition along with any academic recommendations they mean appropriate for the student during their time at the university. The student will then need to email a copy of this report to the dean of the college, the chairperson, and the academic advisor. It is the duty of the dean and the committee to ensure that the accommodations are met and adhered to, and if clarification is required, they should seek this from the doctor. It is the duty of the deanship to implement these accommodations across all classes and ensure all faculty adhere to them.



Privacy should be maintained for student safety; therefore, no medical documentation should be circulated among the staff, apart from those who specifically require it (president, vice, president, deans, chairpersons, academic advisors). Faculty should receive a confidential email relaying the diagnosis and accommodations they should implement in their classrooms. If an instructor or course change occurs, it is the responsibility of the deanship to make the new faculty aware of the case immediately. If it is required for the information to be shared with others, the student's written consent must be provided. It is the duty of the instructor to provide the student with the additional support, and, where necessary, the department the student belongs to. It is the duty of the deanship to ensure the instructor has the means to provide the accommodations and does in fact implement them. It is the student's responsibility to fulfill the academic requirements of the course.

When an issue occurs, the instructor or student should raise the issue via email to the dean, who will then bring it up at the following college council meeting and a plan of action should be compiled.

General Examination Accommodation Examples:

The following are examples of some accommodations that might be required for students based on recommendations of their doctors:

- Exams in alternate formats
 - Multiple choice rather than essay questions
 - Presentations in front of the teacher privately not the class
- Extended time for test taking.
- Exams individually invigilated.
 - Quiet room
 - No distractions
 - Separate from peers (in a separate room alone or with similar students and an appropriate invigilator).

General Assignment Accommodation Examples:

The following are examples of some accommodations that might be required for students based on recommendations of their doctors:

- Substitution of assignments (from written to presentation or vice versa)
- Permission to submit handwritten assignments instead of typed ones.
- Permission to submit written assignments instead of oral presentations and vice versa.
- Extended time to complete assignments.



Additional Notes:

Not all accommodations are reasonable to the context of the course or the university. These include:

- An accommodation which directly threatens health and safety of the individual or others.
- An accommodation would make a substantial change in the essential element of the curriculum.
- An accommodation would require substantial alteration in terms of altering the course objectives.
- An accommodation would impose undue financial or administrative burden to the institution.

Condition Examples:

The table below shows examples of the conditions that may present themselves at the university.

- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)
- Anxiety Disorders including:
 - Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD)
 - Social Anxiety
 - Panic Anxiety Disorder
- Epilepsy
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Schizoaffective Disorder (Bipolar)
- Schizoaffective Disorder (Depressive)
- Bipolar Affective Disorder (BAD)
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)
- Panic Disorder
- Social Phobia
- Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- Borderline personality disorder (BPD)
- Depression
- Schizophrenia
- Dyslexia
- Low Level or Poor Self-Esteem
- Intermittent Explosive Disorder
- Specific Learning Disorder

Please note:

1. Not all cases can be managed by those within the university. For example, Autism follows a large spectrum with some aspects that may be out of our teaching scope within a standard university class.
2. The cases you see here are not an exhaustive list and each will need to be looked at in detail as more cases present themselves.
3. This policy relates to non-physical disabilities only.

Process:

The following procedures should be followed when assessing a student's eligibility:

1. If the student is new, they should make their case known to Registration.
2. Registration should then inform the student of the procedure to bring a medical report from a registered doctor, including the accommodations that the student will require from the university.
3. If the student is already registered within a program, they should email their medical report including the recommendations from the physician to the deanship, the chairperson, and their academic advisor.
4. Once this medical report is acquired, registration should pass the request on via email to the deanship of the student and the UPC if the student is studying under them.
5. The deanship should then open a file for the student with all relevant information being collected.
6. A report should be made regarding the student and the accommodations that will be made for them during the upcoming semester.

Exceptions

The University Council reserves the right to decide on any situation and/or circumstances outside the conditions stated in this policy.

Authorization

This policy was authorized by:


University President

Date:

15-6-2023