



Eastern International College

Information For Students With Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, require Eastern International College to provide appropriate academic and employment accommodations to employees and students with disabilities unless doing so would create an undue hardship, compromise the health and safety of members of the College community, or fundamentally alter the nature of the College's employment or academic mission.

Eastern International is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities, including chronic illness, in a fair and equitable manner, and in accordance with applicable federal and state law. All personnel who are responsible for the implementation of the College's mission are mandated to support this policy.

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) enforces Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Title II) which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability. The ADA ensures equal access and opportunity and protects individuals with disabilities from discrimination.

Eastern International College is committed to providing equal access to educational opportunities and prohibits any form of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, genetic information, and military/veteran status in the recruitment and admission of students and in the operation of all of its programs, activities, and services.

The Disability Coordinator

The designated Disability Coordinators (DC) are the **EIC Campus Director** "elizabeth.reilly@eicollege.edu " and **Student Services Coordinator** "kristine.watco@eicollege.edu ". The responsibilities of the DC include the following: make sure the policies and procedures for academic adjustments or any disability-related requests for accommodations are appropriately followed; answer questions of students regarding academic adjustments and other disability-related accommodations; receive letters of request for academic adjustments and reviews completeness of required documentations; coordinate with the Disability Committee; communicate with students who request for academic adjustments; and provide specific faculty members completed Academic Adjustment Forms for students whose requests for academic adjustments have been approved.

The Disability Coordinator does not directly provide educational services, tutoring, counseling, or help students plan/manage their schedules. Students with disabilities are, in general, expected to be responsible for their own academic programs and progress in the same ways that nondisabled students are responsible for them (U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, 2011).

Standardized Entrance Exams, Testing Accommodations and Conditions, and Admission Decisions

Eastern International College utilizes standardized exams/placement exams as partial criteria for course selection and/or acceptance into specific degree programs offered in the college (refer to the catalog for specific admission requirements). These exams measure the achievement, knowledge, or aptitude of the student. A student who will need testing accommodations will be referred to the Dean of the College, who is also the Disability Coordinator. Testing accommodation and/or change in testing conditions should not fundamentally alter the examination or create an undue financial or administrative burden (U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, 2011) to the College.

The EIC Policy and Procedure for Academic Adjustment applies to any testing accommodation and/or change in testing condition request. The decision on a request is decided by a committee tasked by the College to review and approve disability requests.

Admission decisions are made solely on admission criteria set by the College for each specific degree program. No student will be denied admission due to their disability. EIC has set essential technical and/or academic standards for admission to, or participation in, the College and its programs. Some EIC degree programs may require inquiry about a student's ability to meet essential program requirements, but such inquiry is not designed to reveal disability status.

Identification and Disclosure of Students with Disabilities

EIC does not have a duty to identify students with disabilities. Students are responsible for notifying designated institutional staff (Disability Coordinator) of their disability should they need academic adjustment.

The disclosure of one's disability is voluntary. A student has no obligation to inform the College that they have a disability; however, if a student wants EIC to provide an academic adjustment, or wants other disability-related services, the student must identify themselves as having a disability.

Request for Academic Adjustment

A student who requests for academic adjustment must follow EIC's Policy and Procedure for Academic Adjustment. All requests are done in writing. The same procedure should be followed for all other disability-related accommodation requests. Questions and inquiries may be directed to the College Dean who is also the Disability Coordinator. Requests for adjustment must be done in writing every semester. The College may ask for new documentation of disability if necessary.

Academic Adjustments, Auxiliary Aids and Services

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights (2011) defines academic adjustments, auxiliary aids and services as:

“Such modifications to the academic requirements... necessary to ensure that such requirements do not discriminate or have the effect of discriminating on the basis of disability against a qualified applicant or student with a disability. Academic requirements that the recipient can demonstrate are essential to the instruction being pursued by such students or to any directly related licensing requirement will not be regarded as discriminatory within the meaning of this section. Modifications may include changes in the length of time permitted for the completion of degree requirements, substitution of specific courses required for the completion of degree requirements, and adaptation of the manner in which specific courses are conducted. Academic adjustments also may include a reduced course load, extended time on tests and the provision of auxiliary aids and services. Auxiliary aids and services are defined in the Section 504 regulations and Title II regulations. They include note-takers, readers, recording devices, sign language interpreters, screen-readers, voice recognition and other adaptive software or hardware for computers, and other devices designed to ensure the participation of students with impaired sensory, manual or speaking skills in an institution’s programs and activities. Institutions are not required to provide personal devices and services such as attendants, individually prescribed devices, such as eyeglasses, readers for personal use or study, or other services of a personal nature, such as tutoring. If institutions offer tutoring to the general student population, however, they must ensure that tutoring services also are available to students with disabilities. In some instances, a state VR agency may provide auxiliary aids and services to support an individual’s postsecondary education and training once that individual has been determined eligible to receive services under the VR program.”

EIC has designated a committee to review and make decisions on all requests for academic adjustments and other disability-related accommodations. An academic adjustment or disability-related accommodation should not alter or waive essential academic requirements. It should not also fundamentally alter the nature of a service, program or activity or result in undue financial or administrative burdens considering the College’s resources as a whole (U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, 2011).

A student who wants to request for academic adjustment should notify the Disability Coordinator in writing as early as possible to ensure that the College has enough time to review their request and provide the appropriate academic adjustment.

If the academic adjustments provided are not meeting the student’s needs, it is the responsibility of the student to notify the Disability Coordinator in writing as soon as possible.

EIC does not provide specialized tutors or individual assistants/aides for students.

The Individualized Education Program (IEP)/ 504 Plan

The IEP/ 504 plan, no matter how recent, is not sufficient documentation to support the existence of a current disability and need for an academic adjustment, although an IEP plan may help identify services that have been used by the student in the past (U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, 2011). It is therefore important for a student to understand that an IEP (or 504 Plan) does not suffice as adequate documentation for a request for academic adjustment. Students requesting for academic adjustment must provide the required documentation stipulated in EIC’s Policy and Procedure for Academic Adjustment.

Policy and Procedure for Academic Adjustment

A student who requests for academic adjustments must complete the following:

1. A request for academic adjustment must be done in writing outlining in detail the adjustment/s being requested. The letter is addressed and submitted to the Dean of Academic Affairs (email is acceptable).
2. The letter must be accompanied with documentation prepared by an appropriate professional, such as a medical doctor, psychologist, or a qualified diagnostician, and include the following: diagnosis of current disability and supporting information that include date of diagnosis; how the diagnosis was reached; the credentials of the diagnosing professional; and information on how the disability may affect academic performance and major life activities. The student is responsible for all evaluation and documentation of their disability.
3. A committee created by the Dean of Academic Affairs reviews the request in light of the essential requirements for the relevant program.
EIC does not waive or lower essential program requirements to accommodate an academic adjustment.

The same policy and procedure is applied for all disability-related requests.

Students with Disabilities

Students who have a disability-related grievance are to follow the procedures outlined in the College catalog "Grievance/Complaint Protocol". All grievance communication must be sent to the Dean of Academic Affairs.

Reference

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights. (2011). Students with disabilities preparing for postsecondary education: Know your rights and responsibilities (rev. ed.). Retrieved from <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.htm>