

Liaison Services

There are issues that may arise for students who have documented chronic fluctuating functional limitations that can flare up unexpectedly, impacting participation, attendance, or alignment with timelines. Instructors need to consider these requests on an individualized basis. Disability Services facilitates this process to ensure the request does not pose a fundamental alteration or lower standards.

Consideration for Deadline Adjustments

There may be disability-related impacts on the ability of the student to meet course deadlines. This does not waive requirements for work to be completed by the scheduled end of the course.

Consideration for Flexibility with Attendance and Engagement

This student experiences disability that has the potential to impact attendance. This does not waive requirements for participation.

Consideration for Group Work and Engagement

This student may request alternatives to group assignments. Disability Services has advised the student that this request may not be reasonable in situations where the group work is vital to satisfying essential learning outcomes.

Applying the Interactive Process

The nature of liaison services requires an interactive process. Disability Services is available to work with faculty and students to determine how these types of adjustments can be put in place. The questions below are the type of questions that DS will want to talk through with faculty.

- Is there regular classroom interaction between the instructor and students and among the students themselves?
- Do student contributions in class constitute a significant component of the learning process?
- Does the fundamental nature of the course rely upon student participation as an essential method of learning?
- To what degree does a student's failure to attend class constitute a significant loss of the educational experience of other students in the class?
- What does the course description and syllabus say regarding attendance?
- What is the method by which the final course grade is calculated?

These questions were obtained from a Letter of Finding from the Office for Civil Rights to Cabrillo Community College in California [Case No. 09-96-2150; OCR Region IX, 1996]).