

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

Disability Support Services

Housing Accommodations

Living on campus can be a new and exciting experience for college students. Residential learning environments are important parts of VCU's programs, especially for freshmen students. VCU is committed to providing meaningful residential experiences for all students.

Students requiring housing accommodations based on a medical, psychological, physical or disability related impairment may request any special arrangements/accommodations through the Office of Disability Support Services. To aid in this process, a request must include:

1. Completion of the VCU Disability Support Services Housing Accommodation Request Form
 - a. This form does not take the place of the VCU Residential Life & Housing Application.
 - b. Be sure to complete a VCU Disability Support Services Housing Accommodation Request Form when you fill out your VCU Residential Life and Housing Application.
2. Written documentation of the impairment/disability that supports the housing accommodation request

Request Deadlines

1. Incoming freshmen and transfer students
 - a. It is strongly suggested that students request housing accommodations as early as possible, but no later than May 1st. We cannot guarantee that housing requests will be reviewed and accommodation arrangements made for students who do not submit their housing requests by May 1st.
2. Returning students
 - a. Returning students should submit their request by *January 31st* for the following fall semester.

All documentation should be on letterhead, typed, dated, signed and otherwise legible, and must include the following:

1. Medical or clinical diagnosis of the disability/impairment by a licensed professional in the appropriate area of specialization. Please include the most recent evaluation.
2. The diagnostic criteria or name of the assessment instruments used to determine the diagnosis.
3. A clear definition of the impact of (or limitations imposed by) the impairment/disability on the student's housing needs.
4. Treatments, medications, devices or services currently prescribed or used to minimize the impact of the impairment/disability.
5. The expected duration, stability or progression of the impairment/disability.
6. Statement of the severity of the impairment/disability (mild, moderate, severe).
7. The credentials of the diagnosing professional.

In addition to the basic documentation for an impairment/disability listed above, recommendations for accommodations from the treating professional are welcome and will be given consideration in evaluating a request. Any such recommendations should:

1. Provide a clear description of the recommended housing configuration.
2. Justify the recommended configuration as it relates to the impairment/disability.
3. Describe possible alternatives to the recommended configuration.
4. Provide a statement of the level of need for (or the consequences of not receiving) the recommended configuration.

Students requesting housing accommodations through the Office of Disability Support Services must complete all other requirements and procedures for university housing.

Also refer to DSS websites: MCV Campus www.vcuhealth.org/vp/sassdass
Monroe Park Campus www.students.vcu.edu/dss/