



University of
New Haven

Welcome to **SOAR**

STUDENT ORIENTATION
ADVISING & REGISTRATION

Accessibility Resources Center (ARC)



What can the Accessibility Resources Center do for YOUR Student?

The Accessibility Resources Center provides a comprehensive range of services to support students with disabilities in accessing their academic pursuits, campus dining, and modified housing, as well as fully engaging in their overall campus experience.

- **Academic Support**

Your student can receive accommodations such as extended time on exams, note-taking support, alternative formats for course materials, or assistive technology to help them succeed in their classes.

- **Dining Accommodations**

We work with students who have dietary restrictions or medical needs (e.g., allergies, food sensitivities) to ensure they have safe and accessible meal options.

- **Modified Housing Options**

Students may be eligible for housing adjustments that address substantial limitations and support their health, well-being, or disability-related needs. (*Air Conditioners or other Modifications to Housing and/or Dining Accommodations that you take for granted at home are not automatic in college.*)

- **Individualized Plans**

Each student works with the Accessibility Resources Center to develop a plan tailored to their specific needs—there is no “one-size-fits-all” approach.

- **Confidential and Student-Centered**

Information is handled privately, and students are empowered to advocate for their needs with staff support.

- **Connecting to Campus Resources**

We help students navigate other campus services to ensure their accommodations are implemented smoothly.

Student Engagement

- **Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society** (an honor society for high-achieving students with disabilities).
 - Student must have a 3.1 Cumulative GPA
 - 24 Credits
 - Programming planning
 - Identified as a Recognized Organization on campus
 - Spring Induction Ceremony
- **Learning Assistants:** Support students in various ways
 - Build or enhance academic skills such as
 - studying, time management, and organization
 - Help students better understand how to navigate university systems and expectations
 - Content Tutoring
 - Standing Weekly Appointments
 - Accountability Partner





Legal Transition Changes: High School Vs. College

- **High School - (Individual with Disabilities Act (IDEA) & Section 504, subpart D)**
 - **IDEA ensures that the student is successful** in the K-12 system through appropriate resources.

504, Subpart D, which applies to "preschool, elementary, secondary, and adult education programs and activities that receive or benefit from Federal financial assistance" ([section] 104.31). Ends as the student graduates from high school and enters college or other postsecondary education.
- **College – (ADAAA & Section 504 subpart E)**
 - **Subpart E** "applies to postsecondary education programs and activities, including postsecondary vocational education programs and activities, that receive or benefit from Federal financial assistance" ([section] 104.41).
- **Subpart D** Preschool, elementary, middle level/junior high and secondary programs must consider the needs of qualified persons with disabilities in determining the aid, benefits, or services to be provided under these programs or activities. The school **must provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE)** to students with disabilities in its jurisdiction who are eligible under Section 504.
- **Subpart E** states that postsecondary students **must be granted the opportunity to complete with their non-disabled peers**; they shall not be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any academic, research, occupational training, housing, health insurance, counseling, financial aid, physical education, athletics, recreation, transportation, other extracurricular, or other postsecondary education aid, benefits, or services to which this subpart applies.



What Transition Changes to Expect?

Student Self-Advocacy

- Students (not families) request accommodations
- Communicate directly with professors
- Manage their own support services

No Automatic Services

- Accommodations are not automatic in college
- Students must self- identify, submit documentation of a disability (not just a diagnosis) and be found eligible for services in college

Accommodations vs. Modifications

- We provide accommodations (extra time, notes)
- No changes to course expectations or standards

Increased Independence

- Students manage schedules, meals, medications, routines
- Support is available when needed

Individualized Supports

- Services are based on each student's needs
- Can change over time

Communication with Faculty

- Students must share accommodation letters each semester
- Ongoing communication is required



More Important Changes...

- ***We cannot add or subtract reasonable accommodations based on parent's requests.***
- Students must make any and all requests for services, and/or additional accommodations and there must be a documented need for them.
- ***Students have the right to choose to **not** use services and/or any approved accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are also not made retroactively.***
- Students should learn about services and resources in order to make an informed choice about self-identifying and/or choosing to use services or accommodations.



More Important Changes...

- ***The curriculum is not modified nor are academic standards lowered to meet the student's disability or assure success.***
- The University makes accommodations in instructional programs that do not alter the essential components or requirements of a course or program.
- ***Free and Appropriate Education no longer apply. We cannot ensure your student's SUCCESS.***
- We ensure ACCESS to course materials, programs, and services through the provision of reasonable accommodations.



Who is Considered a Person with a Disability?

The ADA definition of disability: (A) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual; (B) record of such an impairment; (C) being regarded as having an impairment.

- The Broader Definition defined in the 2008 Amendment to the ADA includes more activities that are considered ***major life activities*** that include, but are not limited to:
 - caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working



What Are Major Life Activities

- The term Major Life Activity now also includes the operation of major bodily functions including, but not limited to:
 - functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions.
- An impairment that is episodic or in remission IS a disability if it would substantially limit a major life activity when active.



How to Access Reasonable Accommodations

1. Complete Student Information Form in AIM (found inside MyCharger).
2. Submit Documentation of a Disability, Chronic Health Related Disorder, or Military-Service Related Disorder in AIM.
3. Schedule and Attend A Welcome Appointment.
4. Request Approved Accommodations Each Semester Enrolled



Temporary Accommodation

Short-term support for students during acute or emerging conditions.

- Concussions
- Mobility Concerns
- Adjustment in attendance
- Assignment Flexibility

Students should reach out to the ARC if short-term conditions will affect their academic trajectory.

Students can apply directly to the AIM platform

Frequently Asked Questions

What does substantially limiting mean?

According to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, substantially limits is defined as significantly restricts your ability to do a major life activity compared to your non-disabled peers, (i.e. caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, working).

In high school I received accommodations through an Individualized Education Plan or 504 plan. Can I use the IEP or 504 plan as documentation of my disability?

No. Although an IEP can offer helpful background information, it is not sufficient by itself to meet documentation requirements. Similarly, a Section 504 designation from high school does not constitute adequate documentation for higher education. You are welcome to submit your IEP or 504 plan as supporting information; however, it will not be enough on its own. If you have additional documentation, such as a psychoeducational evaluation, neuropsychological evaluation, or other formal test report, those documents can be submitted instead of the Disability Verification Form. Thus, accommodation decisions are made on a case-by-case basis with reference to specific functional limitations.

What if I suspect I may have a disability but have never been diagnosed?

A student who thinks they may have a disability should set up an appointment with an ARC advisor to discuss their situation. ARC can provide information and referrals to help a student seek an assessment.

Is the University of New Haven campus fully accessible to students with disabilities?

Most buildings and facilities at the university are accessible. Keep in mind that the campus is large, includes hills, and has some older buildings that may pose challenges. The Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) works individually with students to make sure they can fully access and participate in all programs and services at UNH. An online [Campus Accessibility Map](#) shows the locations of accessible entrances to campus buildings.

Are shuttle buses and other public transportation services accessible to students with disabilities?

Yes, the campus shuttle bus system is wheelchair accessible, and all students are eligible to ride. Special Services (Courtesy Vans) are provided. Arrangements must be made with ARC in advance. To use this service, a student must apply to ARC.

Frequently Asked Questions

I am on crutches for a temporary injury. Can I get a special parking permit?

Students can complete the [Temporary Medical Conditions Form](#). The university has resources such as the courtesy vans on campus for first-year students who are requesting parking permits and required temporary accommodation. For more information on parking permits [Parking - University of New Haven](#).

For all other temporary accommodation due to sickness or injury, students should contact ARC to discuss what resources may be available on a temporary basis.

How do I get a single room accommodation?

Living within a community is central to the residential experience. You should expect varying degrees of noise, activity, and engagement with peers while living on-campus. Because of shared facilities, resources, and the number of people living in each building, it is not always feasible for us to provide quiet or private places to live or study. Therefore, when we review your needs, we must also explore alternative accommodations to singles. Single-bedroom accommodations are implemented only when significant access barriers are identified that make your residential experience inequitable.

I have a temporary injury and my current housing does meet my needs.

Students with a temporary injury should [register with ARC](#). If we determine that your current housing does not meet your needs, ARC will work with the Office of Residential Life to identify an accessible room.

Accommodation for Environmental Allergies

Living in a new environment may create concerns if you have allergic conditions. Precautions are taken in all university-sponsored housing to mitigate the impact of environmental allergens. These standards are applied equally across all residential communities. We cannot conclude that any residential buildings have fewer allergens (i.e. dust) than others.

What do I need to know about service animals (SA) and emotional support animals (ESA) in the residence halls?

Please find more information on the [Service and assistance animals](#).

Before bringing an assistance animal into residence, you will need to complete our registration process and meet all requirements for approval. Please note that room sizes within our residence halls vary. Assignments are made based on availability, and the presence of an animal would not be considered unless a significant safety issue is identified. Students must be in possession of the animal and all required documentation before gaining any kind of approval.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I apply for proximity to a particular classroom, building, or facility cannot be guaranteed for any student. Requests for housing location based solely on convenience or personal preference (such as closeness to friends or specific academic buildings) are not considered as disability accommodations. Any location-based accommodations must be related to a documented disability that cannot be effectively accommodated by the accessible Harvard transportation options.

Requests for housing assignments based on proximity to health services are not considered when determining reasonable accommodations. University of New Haven Health Services is not a 24-hour emergency facility and is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00am- 2:00pm. In the event of a medical emergency, students should call 911 or seek immediate medical assistance.

If it is outside of the standard priority ARC accommodation and housing timelines and I have a substantiated accommodation that will necessitate a new housing assignment, when will I be offered a new space?

The University of New Haven is able to offer housing to students based on the available open rooms on campus. Room availability is consistently monitored. If you already have a housing assignment that doesn't meet newly substantiated accommodations that is approved by ARC, the Office of Residential Life will work to identify appropriate spaces when they become available. This means that there can be a delay between an accommodation being substantiated and a room change being offered, especially when residence halls are at full capacity.

What if my diagnosis means I need a quiet space to study?

Residence halls and student housing are designed as living areas. Thus, they do not fall into the category of needing to be quiet study spaces for disabilities that affect focus, concentration, or distractibility. Because of the number of people who live in close proximity, it is not logical to assume that having a private room would provide a quiet, distraction-free space to any appreciable degree beyond living in a standard double room. The campus residential experience extends beyond the sleeping space so there are multiple settings on campus (study rooms in residence halls, art and music studios, computer labs, private library study rooms, outdoor hammock spots, etc.) that provide quiet and private places where students can study, relax, or be alone. Tools like noise-canceling headphones, white noise devices, or phone apps also can help block distracting sounds.

I need housing accommodations for religious purposes. What is the process? Requesting accommodations for religious purposes is separate from the disability accommodation process. Those seeking religious accommodation inside the residence halls are asked to contact the office of Residential Life at reslife@newhaven.edu.

I am nervous about talking to my professors. How should I approach them about my need for accommodations?

ARC strongly encourages students to meet with professors during office hours and/or to arrange an alternate meeting time so that there is sufficient time to discuss the accommodation letter and how your accommodation needs should be provided. Most faculty are familiar with the accommodation process and should be encouraged to call ARC if they have questions. Meeting with faculty face-to-face is essential in order to work out logistical details related to specific requests. Meeting during office hours versus immediately before, during, or after class allows for more privacy and opportunity to discuss details.



Questions??

How to reach us!

<https://www.newhaven.edu/student-life/diversity-inclusion/accessibility-resources-center/>

ARC@newhaven.edu

Phone: 203.932.7332

Fax: 203.931.6082

*Location: Sheffield Hall, Ground Floor, Rear
of the Building*

THANK YOU

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ON

