

# Housing Accommodation Policy

## Overview

SUNY Oneonta Office of Residential Community Life is committed to achieving access and does not discriminate against persons with disabilities.

If reasonable accommodations cannot be immediately satisfied due to capacity/facility design/availability/etc., the Office of Residential Community Life will prioritize this request before handling others. These accommodations will be provided within the basic guidelines to follow, with the understanding that students with disabilities may require unique housing accommodations and these needs will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Roommates will be assigned to students with disabilities occupying modified rooms in the same manner as other residential students.

## Housing Requests Based on Medical, Psychological or Disability Related Needs

The learning environment and residential living are central to the SUNY Oneonta experience. It should be noted that living within the community and learning to share space and be considerate of others is part of that learning experience.

Requests (submitted yearly) for special needs housing should include:

1. Documentation of the condition or need that is the basis of the request.
2. A clear description of the desired housing configuration
3. An explanation of how the request relates to the impact of the condition
4. An indication of the level of need for the recommended configuration (and the consequences of not receiving)
5. Possible alternatives if the recommended configuration is not possible.

To evaluate requests based on medical, psychological or disability related conditions accurately and equitably, SUNY Oneonta will need documentation. Documentation consists of an evaluation by an appropriate professional that relates the current impact of the condition to the request. Documentation supporting a request will be reviewed by the Disability Services Coordinator and all documentation will be held in both the Disability Services Office and the Residence Life Office. All information is considered confidential. In order to be considered for reasonable housing accommodations students must supply the above information to the appropriate College office by the following dates.

**New Students:** upon deposit for housing

**Returning Students:** March 1st

## **Evaluation of Housing Requests Based on Medical, Psychological or Disability Related Needs**

Housing assignments and the residential learning environment are integral parts of SUNY Oneonta programs, particularly for first year students. We evaluate all requests for need-based housing assignments carefully. Below is a summary of the factors considered when evaluating housing requests.

### Severity of the Condition

1. Is impact of the condition life threatening if the request is not met?
2. Is there a negative health impact that may be permanent if the request is not met?
3. Is the request an integral component of a treatment plan for the condition in question?
4. What is the likely impact on academic performance if the request is not met?
5. What is the likely impact on social development if the request is not met?
6. What is the likely impact on the student's level of comfort if the request is not met?

### Timing of the Request

1. Was the request made with initial housing request?
2. Was the request made before the deadline for housing requests for the semester in question?
3. Was the request made as soon as possible after identifying the need? (Based on date of diagnosis, receipt of housing assignment, change in status, etc.)

### Feasibility and Availability

1. Is space available that meets the student's needs?
2. Can space be adapted to provide the requested configuration without creating a safety hazard (electrical load, emergency egress, etc.)?
3. Are there other effective methods or housing configurations that would achieve similar benefits as the requested configuration?
4. How does meeting this request impact housing commitments to other students?

*Appeal Process:* If a student with a documented disability believes that he/she has not be provided with a reasonable housing accommodation, the student should direct their concern to the Dean of Student Affairs or designee. The student must provide, in writing, the nature of the concern and any other relevant information. The decision of the Dean of Student Affairs or designee is final.

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