

Academic Support Office

Temporary Disabilities

Academic Support Office (ASO) recognizes that individuals with temporarily disabling conditions that are a result of injuries, surgery or short-term disabilities may need access to resources. Examples of temporary disabilities may include, but are not limited to broken limbs, hand injuries, or short-term disabilities following surgery or medical treatments.

Students who have a temporary injury or illness that may impact their academics are encouraged to talk to their instructors about any accommodations they may need for the duration of their impairment. In many cases, students with temporary disabilities do not need to come to ASO and can work informally with instructors to get the support they need. Examples of support that could be provided by an instructor without needing an Accommodation Letter from ASO could include notetaking support (for students with hand/arm injuries) or leniency with arriving late (for students temporarily using crutches or wheelchair).

If a temporary injury and need for accommodation is obvious (cast, sling, crutches, etc.) instructors are encouraged to informally work with students related to their impairment. If an instructor is unsure about an accommodation being requested by a student or the need for accommodations is not obvious instructors are encouraged to contact ASO.

Conditions lasting 2 weeks or less are not considered temporary disabilities. Examples might include:

- Hand/arm injuries (sprains, broken bones, surgery, etc.)
- Leg/ankle injuries (sprains, broken bones, surgery, etc.)

Conditions lasting more than 2 weeks that may qualify for temporary accommodations through ASO

- Concussions
- Broken bones
- Mononucleosis
- Complex/multiple injuries

Students needing accommodations for a temporary condition are encouraged to talk to their instructors about their needs in the class prior to contacting ASO. Students may consult with ASO after talking with their instructor to determine if any additional accommodations are needed beyond what is being provided by the instructor.

Documentation Requirements

To receive accommodations for a temporary disability, the student may submit information to Academic Support Office indicating the type of disability, impact, and estimated duration of the disability. It is also helpful to know any side effects caused by medication and recommendations for accommodations. The information should be recent enough to identify current impact. Additional information may be requested to update ASO on continued need for accommodations.

Students may complete the Student Disability Disclosure (available on the Forms page) which provides students an opportunity to describe the impact of the temporary disability and the requested accommodations.

The student should call and set-up an appointment with the ASO to review the available information and identify possible accommodations. The ASO will advise the student if any additional information is needed prior to setting up accommodations, as well as share information on potential resources.

Potential Accommodations for Temporary Disabilities

Academic accommodations are identified through an interactive process. Examples of accommodations which may be available for a temporary arm, hand, or upper extremity injury may include:

- Scribe for exams
- Notetaking assistance
- Audio recorder for lectures
- Extended testing time
- Computer for essay exams

Resources and Referral Information

Students with temporary disabilities may want to meet with the ASO to discuss:

- Classroom and testing accommodations
- Accessible routes and elevator access on campus
- How to apply for a county-issued disabled parking placard

Common Referrals

- **Parking and Transportation**
Reinhardt University does not issue disabled parking placards. Students who are interested in obtaining a disabled parking permit must apply for one.
- **Residence Life (on-campus housing)**
Students who have mobility concerns may inquire with Residence Life to be moved to a room with an accessible bathroom facility (as space is available). Contact your Residence life Director.

- **Equipment Rental and Sales**

Academic Support Office maintains a list of companies that rent and sell equipment to help with mobility (wheelchairs, scooters, etc).