

Temporary Impairment Guidelines

A temporary impairment (e.g., broken arm or leg, surgery and recovering from surgery, etc) “does not constitute a disability for purposes of Section 504 or the ADA unless its severity is such that it results in a substantial limitation of one or more major life activities for an extended period of time. The issue of whether a temporary impairment is substantial enough to be a disability must be resolved on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration both the duration (or expected duration) of the impairment and the extent to which it actually limits a major life activity of the affected individual.” See Question #34 on the Office for Civil Rights web page <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/504faq.html>

Please review the following suggestions if you have a temporary impairment:

Mobility Needs

1. Where can I get information on physical accessibility to classrooms?

Elevators are designated on the campus map with the letter “E”.

Link to campus map: http://webgis.uwm.edu/campusmap/map_color.pdf

2. What options are available for parking close to my classes?

Short-term UWM Disability permits for people with mobility difficulties are available for sale to eligible persons and to other persons with an obvious temporary impairment on daily basis for a period **not to exceed four consecutive weeks**. Short-term permits are also sold to persons in the process of obtaining the certified-proof required to purchase an annual permit or eligible persons who expect to be on campus two days a week or less. More information on accessible parking is available on UWM's Parking and Transit web site.

<http://www4.uwm.edu/parking/special/general-da-information.cfm>

3. If I can't walk far enough to use standard bus routes, are there other options available?

The University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee does not provide any personal transportation services. There is a campus bus which transports students from Riverview and Cambridge Dorms to campus.

If you have a friend that drives to campus, check with them to see if they could assist you with your transportation needs.

For those individuals who cannot utilize the accessible bus system, Milwaukee County provides the Transit Plus paratransit system, which can provide a curb to curb service. If you are eligible to participate in the Milwaukee County Transit Plus Program, your **UPASS** can be used to waive the initial Transit Plus portion of the fare for each trip you take. To find out more about this benefit call 414-278-4091.

4. How can I get help with snow removal on campus?

Refer to Buildings and Grounds, within Facilities at (414) 229-5096.

5. Where can I get a loaner wheelchair or set of crutches?

Personal devices, such as crutches or wheelchairs, are not provided by the University, and as such should be obtained through the student's personal physician or a rehabilitation vendor. You may check with your personal medical insurance company to inquire about cost.

6. Who do I contact to discuss accessibility issues in University Housing?

Contact the University Housing Office at (414) 229-4065 or 1-800-622-0286, Monday through Friday from 7:45 am – 4:30 pm.

Academic Needs

If you have a temporary impairment that may impact your academic work, we recommend you contact your professors as soon as possible. You should discuss issues such as notetaking, taking exams, writing/typing written assignments, and class absences to determine whether informal accommodations can be provided by the instructor within the department.

Notetaking

1. Ask your instructor or TA if course notes already exist and whether they would be willing to share them. Your instructor may suggest other possibilities.
2. Find someone in the class who would be willing to let you copy his or her notes. ARC can provide you with a letter requesting your instructor's help in recruiting a volunteer notetaker.
3. Discuss with your instructor the option of tape recording the class.

Writing Projects

1. Seek assistive technology on or off campus or learn about your computer's accessibility features. Apple products have speech to text built in and PC computers with Windows 8 also have this feature. Campus offers some free software to students through the UWM Software Store (e.g. Read & Write Gold) that has features that may be helpful. Other free software programs are available by searching the internet. Software such as Dragon Dictate which converts speech to text, can also be purchased.
2. Negotiate extra time to complete papers or consider taking an incomplete if the course is near the end.
3. Hire writing help (scribe).
4. Get a volunteer to help with writing or to transcribe from recorded material (you could post flyers, with your contact information, in residence halls or you could ask someone from your class)
5. Negotiate a substitute for a written assignment with your instructor (e.g., oral or taped presentation, weighing other course requirements more heavily, etc.).
6. If the semester has not started, talk to your advisor about whether the same course is available with an instructor who doesn't require as much writing or consider enrolling in a different course.
7. Be creative. Use a combination of these options. Be sure to involve your instructors in finding solutions.

Taking Exams

1. Work with your instructor to make informal accommodations (e.g., using a computer, digitally recording your answers to short-answer and/or essay questions, having someone in the department scribe the exam).
2. Ask the instructor whether you can give oral answers to the exam.

If arrangements cannot be made with your instructor, please contact the Accessibility Resource Center:

Accessibility Resource Center

www.uwm.edu/arc/

archelp@uwm.edu

414-229-6287

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