

Accessibility Resource Center

Mallory Frank and Melanie Pare, Access Specialists



About the Accessibility Resource Center

- Dedicated to providing equal access for students with disabilities to the University's academic, social, cultural and recreational programs.
- Provide academic accommodations and supports to students with documented disabilities.
- Resource for the campus community, faculty, and staff.

Disability Defined

- Physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Learning is identified as a major life activity in the statute (ADA).
 - Attention deficit disorder
 - Autism spectrum disorders
 - Brain injuries
 - Chronic health and medical conditions
 - Deaf/hard of hearing
 - Learning disabilities
 - Mobility/physical disabilities
 - Psychological disabilities
 - Visual disabilities

Disability Prevalence

- Not all disabilities are apparent and most college students with disabilities do not disclose their disability (NCES).
- 19.4% of college undergrads have a disability (NCES)
- 18,171 undergrad students in Fall 2021 (About UWM)
- 4% of undergrad students registered with ARC in Fall 2021

Federally Mandated

- Americans with Disabilities Act and Amendments
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
- No qualified individual with a disability in the U.S. shall be excluded from, denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity that receives federal financial assistance (Rehab Act)

Purpose of Accommodations

- Reduce or eliminate barriers to ensure students with disabilities have equal access and opportunity to learn and participate fully in the university's programs and services.
- Measure what a student has learned and not to measure the impact or functional limitations of a disability.

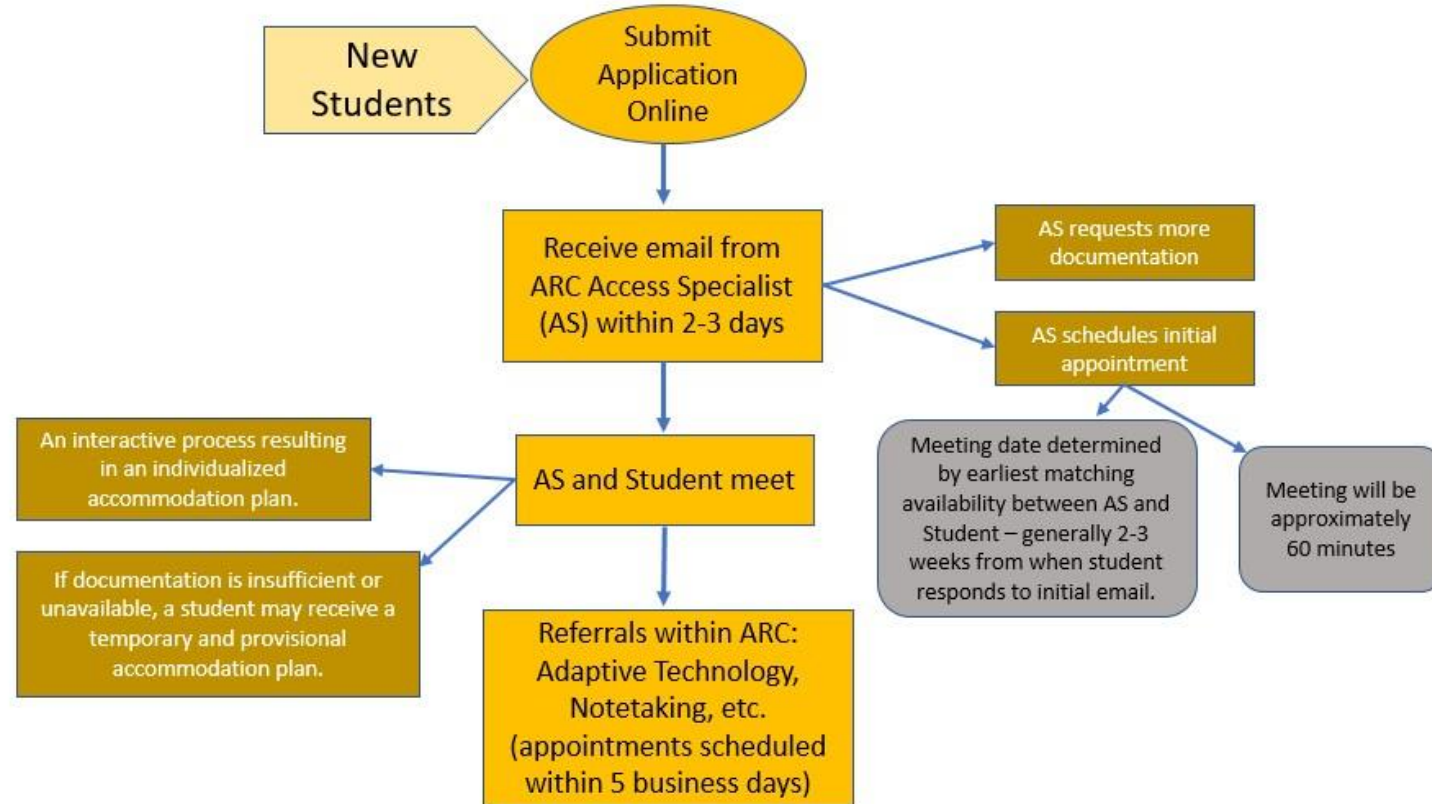
Applying for Accommodations

- UWM students with a documented disability may apply for academic and housing accommodations. An ePanther ID and password are required.
- [Apply for Academic Accommodations](#)

Accommodation Process

- Students must provide written documentation of their disability from a licensed professional, such as a physician, psychologist, social worker, or audiologist.
- Access specialist engages in an interactive process with the student, conducting an extensive interview where the student can discuss in detail their disability and their functional limitations, which helps determine appropriate academic accommodations.

An Overview of the UWM Accessibility Resource Center Request for Accommodations Process



Accommodations and Services

- Accommodations are determined individually to mediate functional limitations of the disability.
 - Academic Flexibility
 - Alternate Formats
 - Assistive Technology
 - Communication Access
 - Notetaking Services
 - Testing

Faculty Notification of Accommodations

- Each semester, students registered with the ARC use an online accommodation management system (ARConnect) to request accommodations for individual classes.
- When the student selects accommodations for their classes, the instructor(s) receive a notification of disability accommodations letter from ARC that lists the student's accommodations.
- Students are encouraged to meet with instructors privately to discuss their accommodation needs.

A Shared Responsibility

- Fostering an inclusive campus climate and accommodating students with disabilities is a shared responsibility.
- Collaborate with the student, and ARC if necessary, to identify how to best meet the accommodations listed on the student's accommodation plan.

PROFconnect

- Instructor accommodation management portal
 - View a list of students with accommodation requests in your course
 - Upload media for captioning
 - Complete, view, and edit testing agreements
 - Securely upload and download exams
 - uwm.edu/arc/profconnect

Instructional Resources

- Accessibility Training for Instructors
 - UWM Certificate in Accessibility
 - Sponsored by the Office of the Provost
 - uwm.edu/accessibility-training
- Universal Design Checklist for Instructors
 - uwm.edu/cetl/universal-design-checklist-for-instructors

Contact ARC with Questions or Concerns

Accessibility Resource Center

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Access Specialists:

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References

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, As Amended
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nces.ed.gov/whatsnew/press_releases/4_26_2022.asp
nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=60
- Rehabilitation Act of 1973
[eeoc.gov/rehabilitation-act-1973-original-text](https://www.eeoc.gov/rehabilitation-act-1973-original-text)
- U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights
www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/investigations/open-investigations/dis1.html