

HEARING LOSS

A hearing loss is a significant reduction in sensitivity to sounds. A student with a hearing loss may be unable to correctly interpret auditory stimuli, even with amplification. Although a student may have some capacity to hear, they may be unable to discriminate speech well and may use sign language or lip-reading, also referred to as speech-reading, to communicate.

ACCESSIBILITY

A student with a hearing loss may be affected academically in various ways. They may be unable to hear class lectures and audio/video presentations. Amplification of lectures, a sign language interpreter, or other technical aids during classes may be needed. Background noises could make it difficult to discriminate sounds and speech. Assignment instructions may be misinterpreted, and it may be difficult for the student to participate in group discussions or small group activities.

REGISTERING WITH STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES (SAS)

To be eligible for academic accommodations at FAU, a student must first be accepted to the University and then apply for services with SAS. **There are two steps to apply for services:**

1. Register with SAS by completing an Application for Academic Accommodations. Applications can be found at <https://clockwork.fau.edu/ClockWork/user/intake/default.aspx>.
 2. Provide appropriate documentation. Following are documentation requirements.
 - * Documentation on prescription pad is not accepted. IEPs/504 plans are not acceptable as documentation. Documentation requirements are firm.
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DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

- Documentation must be in the form of an audiogram along with a written narrative defining the hearing loss.
- The diagnosis must be made by a licensed audiologist or other qualified practitioner. Attach a copy of the audiologist's business card.
- The written narrative must include the anticipated effects of the student's functional limitations within the academic setting and suggestions for accommodations. There must be a direct link established between the suggested accommodations and the functional limitations.
- The evaluation must have been conducted within the last five years; however, SAS reserves the right to make modifications to this time frame.

Florida Atlantic University does not provide a housing accommodation based solely on a diagnosis of a hearing loss. Modifications to residence hall rooms are available and are determined on a case-by-case basis.

DETERMINING ACCOMMODATIONS

Once the application and documentation are submitted, they will be reviewed by SAS. *Incomplete applications are not accepted.* The student will be notified if any documentation is missing and will be asked to submit additional documentation to meet the requirements. *The cost for obtaining appropriate documentation is the student's responsibility.*

It may take one to two weeks for the Application for Academic Accommodations to be processed, even with appropriate documentation. If the documentation submitted is inadequate, the processing time will increase.

Once the documentation requirements are met and the application is complete, the student will meet with an SAS consultant for a collaborative interview. During the interview, the student will be asked to provide information about his/her disability experience, barriers to learning, and effective / ineffective prior accommodations. Appropriate accommodations are then determined based on an interactive process between the student and the SAS consultant.

The student may be eligible for one or more of the following accommodations:

- Notetaking assistance
- Exam adaptations, e.g., directions provided in writing
- Priority seating
- Sign language interpreters or C-print services
- Assistive listening devices

Accommodations are drafted into an official letter, an Academic Accommodation Agreement (AAA). The AAA is submitted by the student to each professor every semester, officially informing the professors of the approved accommodations. Professors then confirm the accommodations, thereby agreeing to provide them to the student. Once the accommodations are confirmed, the student can use them

Accommodations are necessary to ensure complete access to, and full participation in, the educational process. Academic standards cannot be lowered nor can the essential nature of the course or degree requirements be altered.



Division of Student Affairs
Florida Atlantic University

Accommodating Students with a Hearing Loss

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Northern Campuses, SR Room 111F
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www.fau.edu/sas

*Alternate format is available upon request.