

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI)

TBI is an injury to the brain caused by an external force to the skull. Although there are often physical manifestations of the injury, many times the effects are less obvious cognitive, emotional, and/or social effects. Most moderate to severe TBIs result in long-standing deficits in communication, language, visual-motor skills, attention, and/or memory. Post-TBI cognitive and behavioral changes may necessitate academic accommodations.

ACCESSIBILITY

Student with a TBI may be affected academically in various ways. Some students may be affected with memory loss, slower thought processes, difficulty using language, depression, mood swings, and/or fatigue. In addition, students with a TBI may experience physical impairments that might affect them academically, e.g., mobility, fine motor skills, sensory loss.

REGISTERING WITH STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES (SAS)

To be eligible for academic accommodations at FAU, a student must first be accepted at the University and then must 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.*

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Documentation must be in the form of a complete psychological or psychoeducational evaluation conducted by a licensed psychologist.

- *The evaluation must include three types of tests: an **intelligence test**, e.g. Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale, an **achievement test**, e.g., Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Achievement, and a test of **communication or interpersonal skills**.*

- The evaluation should also consist of an integrated summary of the clinical interview and test scores.
- Documentation must state a specific DSM-5 diagnosis. It should include anticipated effects of the student's functional limitations within the academic setting and suggestions for accommodating the student. There should be a clear link between the suggested accommodations and the functional limitations.
- The evaluation must have been conducted within the last five years or two years post-injury. SAS reserves the right to make modifications to this time frame.

If a housing accommodation is requested due to a TBI, the following should be included in the documentation, in addition to the above documentation requirements:

- There must be a **direct link** established between the condition and the requested housing accommodation.
 - State a **specific housing accommodation** recommendation as a result of the condition.
**Please refer to the SAS Housing brochure for more information:*
<http://www.fau.edu/sas/Brochures.php>.
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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
- Audio recording of lectures
- Exam adaptations, e.g., extended time to take exams, distraction reduced setting
- Time management and study skills training

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. The 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 Traumatic Brain Injury

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www.fau.edu/sas

*Alternate format is available upon request.