



OFFICE OF ACADEMIC SERVICES

COMPASS, Thomas Library

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Housing Accommodations

As a liberal arts residential campus, all undergraduate students enrolled full-time at Wittenberg University are required to live in campus housing. Students living in residence halls are required to participate in a University meal plan. Space in University-owned houses and apartments is generally restricted to students who are in their third or fourth year and have earned 60 credit hours. The University understands, however, that students may have specific needs for housing accommodations that warrant modifications to this policy. Students in need of housing accommodations due to health concerns should work with the office of Accessibility Services to make appropriate arrangements.

Students with dietary restrictions should contact Dining Services (937-327-6161, diningservices@wittenberg.edu) to discuss their needs and the options provided by Dining Services. If Dining Services is unable to meet the needs of the student, then they should work with the Accessibility Services office to provide documentation and develop reasonable accommodations related to their meal plan.

To begin the process of pursuing a housing accommodation, Accessibility Services first needs documentation from your licensed care provider. If you are seeking a housing accommodation based on a psychological health condition, the documentation would be best coming from a mental health professional. If you are seeking a housing accommodation based on a physical/medical health condition, the documentation would be best coming from your treating physician. However, we will assess any documentation provided on a case by case basis.

The documentation should describe the diagnosis/presenting health concern, any functional limitations to the equal use of and/or access to housing spaces caused by the diagnosis/presenting health concern, specific recommendations for minimizing limitations to equal use/access of housing spaces, and why the recommendations would be helpful for promoting equal use and access. For more information on documentation, please see our "Medical/Physical Health Concerns" or "Psychological Health Concerns" documentation guidelines (<https://www.wittenberg.edu/academics/studentuccess/disability-services>) – we do not use these as checklists; they simply provide insight into the type of information that is helpful for us.

While every situation is specific to the student and their individual needs, the following examples may better equip students when they request documentation from their care providers.

“Helpful recommendation” – *Student Name* has experienced the following symptoms as a result of elevated noise levels in *student’s* environment: list/describe symptoms. *Student* needs to be able to minimize noise in their living space and would benefit from a space is in a quieter location. A space in a quieter location would help to mitigate the following concerns: list/describe specific supports provided by the accommodation.

“Unhelpful recommendation” – *Student Name* suffers from *condition* and needs to be released to live outside of the dorms.

The first example provides specifics to help our staff understand what factors influence the student’s experience and help us gauge the ways in which we can meet the student’s needs. The second example does not provide no specifics about what the student needs to be able to equally utilize and enjoy the housing space. It also makes assumptions about what our campus can and cannot provide and does not give our staff the tools they need to be able to identify possible accommodations on campus.

After receiving the documentation, staff in the Accessibility Services office will review the provided information. If your housing accommodation is approved, Accessibility Services will submit a recommendation to Residence Life that you be provided the appropriate housing accommodation. If Accessibility Services needs more information from you or your care provider, a staff member will reach out to you to talk through your next steps.

Please contact Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@wittenberg.edu if you have any questions.