



University Housing Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Overview

Mississippi College (MC) is committed to providing maximum access and equal opportunities for all qualified students, including those with disabilities. This commitment aligns with Policy 1.10, ensuring compliance with federal and state non-discrimination laws. MC strictly prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, age, genetic information, veteran status, disability, or the provision of services.

These guidelines are designed to help MC effectively address and accommodate individual student needs, fostering an inclusive and supportive residential environment. Living on campus is a vital part of the MC experience, particularly for first-year students who are required to reside in university housing.

Legal Requirements for Housing Accessibility

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (as amended in 2008), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Fair Housing Act prohibit discrimination in housing. These laws require educational institutions to ensure that housing programs comply with federal regulations and provide equal access to qualified students with disabilities.

Housing Accommodation Policy

MC's Accessibility Services is responsible for reviewing accommodation requests. Housing accommodations in campus-owned residences are approved case by case for students who demonstrate a significant need due to the severe impact of a diagnosed disability. As with all accommodations, housing requests are highly individualized and must be directly related to the student's diagnosed condition.

MC reserves the right to determine eligibility for services based on the following:

- The nature and severity of the diagnosed disability
- The impact of the condition on daily living and academic success
- The reasonableness, feasibility, and availability of the requested accommodation

Eligibility & Documentation Requirements

Students requesting housing accommodations must:

1. Submit supporting medical/psychological documentation in accordance with Accessibility Services' Documentation Guidelines.
2. Complete the approval process and become registered with Accessibility Services.
3. Meet university housing eligibility requirements, including:
 - Enrollment in a housing-eligible program
 - School approval
 - Maintaining full-time student status

All documentation will be reviewed confidentially by Accessibility Services. Students should ensure their treating medical or psychological professionals provide documentation that meets MC's requirements.

Additionally, students must follow general housing procedures, adhere to housing request deadlines, and consult with the Department of Residence Life for further details.

Accommodation Availability & Room Assignments

- The Department of Residence Life prioritizes disability-related housing needs before fulfilling room type preferences.
- If an accommodation cannot be immediately met due to capacity, facility design, or availability, the request will be prioritized before addressing other housing requests.
- Some accommodations may require annual renewal based on the nature of the condition.
- Students approved for housing accommodations will be assigned roommates in the same manner as other residential students.
- Rental rates for students with approved accommodations will be the same as standard housing rates, except in cases determined by Accessibility Services and Residence Life.

Housing Accommodation Request Deadlines

For First-Year, Transfer, and New Graduate Students:

- **Fall Semester:** March 1
- **Spring Semester:** November 1
- **Summer Semester:** April 1

For Returning Students:

- **Fall Semester:** May 1

- **Spring Semester:** November 1
- **Summer Semester:** April 1

Late Requests & Review Process

Requests submitted after the deadline will still be accepted and considered, but Accessibility Services cannot guarantee that they will be reviewed in time to meet general housing deadlines. Requests are evaluated in the order they are received.

For questions or additional information, please contact Accessibility Services or the Department of Residence Life.

Examples of Housing Accommodations

Students with disabilities may request housing accommodations to ensure accessibility and equal access to campus living. Examples include:

- Wheelchair-accessible unit
- Wheelchair-accessible toilet and sink
- Semi-private bathroom
- Private bathroom
- First-floor room
- Private room
- Roll-in shower
- Flashing safety alarms (for students with hearing impairments)
- Service animal approval
- Assistance animal approval
- Housing in close proximity to specific campus locations
- Braille signage (for students with visual impairments)

For additional accommodation needs, students should contact Accessibility Services.

Evaluation Criteria for Housing Accommodations

Requests are carefully evaluated based on the following:

1. **Necessity of the Request**
 - Is the accommodation required due to a diagnosed disability, or is it a preference?

- Would the absence of the accommodation result in a permanent negative health impact?
- Is the accommodation an essential part of the treatment plan?
- Would the student's condition become life-threatening if the request is denied?
- What potential academic and social impacts could result if the accommodation is not provided?
- How would the student's comfort and well-being be affected if the accommodation is unavailable?

2. Timing of the Request

- Was the request submitted with the initial housing application?
- Was the request made before the housing deadline for the semester?
- Was the request submitted promptly after identifying the need (e.g., due to a new diagnosis, housing assignment, or change in condition)?

3. Feasibility & Availability

- Is the requested accommodation available within the current housing program?
- Can the space be adapted to meet the request without safety hazards (e.g., electrical load, emergency access)?
- Are there alternative accommodations that could provide the same level of accessibility?
- How would fulfilling this request impact housing availability for other students?

Housing Accommodation Request Process

1. University Admission Requirement

- The student must be admitted to MC before submitting a housing accommodation request.

2. Follow General Housing Procedures

- The student must complete the general housing application and be aware of housing deadlines.
- For details, students should consult the Department of Residence Life.

3. Submit a Housing Accommodation Request to Accessibility Services

- Submit a completed intake application (available on the Accessibility Services website).
- Complete an initial interview with Accessibility Services (in person or virtually).

- Provide supporting medical and/or psychological documentation verifying the need for the requested accommodation.
4. **Review & Decision Process**
- Accessibility Services will review the request and consult with the Department of Residence Life.
5. **Implementation of Approved Accommodations**
- If approved, the student must contact the Department of Residence Life to finalize implementation.

Disclaimer

Mississippi College is committed to maintaining confidentiality of all disability-related documentation. The university will not release any part of a student's records without written consent, except as permitted by law.

Submitting Documentation:

- Upload documents via the **accommodation application**
- Mail to: **Accessibility Services**
P.O. Box 4076
Clinton, MS 39058
Phone: 601-925-3852
Email: Accessibility@mc.edu

Incomplete applications or those missing required documentation will not be considered.