

## ASHLAND UNIVERSITY-EVALUATION OF HOUSING ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS

To accurately and equitably evaluate requests based on medical, psychological, or other disability-related conditions, Ashland University will need sufficient information to understand how the requested housing assignment relates to the current impact of the condition. For those with medical conditions, such documentation generally consists of an evaluation by an appropriate professional providing treatment for the condition.

Ashland University provides accommodations when appropriate, warranted, and available. Some students cannot access Ashland University's on-campus living environment for disability-related reasons. AU expects these students to make need-based accommodation requests through the SAC office, providing thorough documentation in enough time for SAC staff members to review it. We carefully evaluate all housing requests and work closely with ResLife to identify appropriate, on-campus living spaces. SAC focuses on accommodations in the on-campus living environment.

The presence of a diagnosed medical condition alone does not necessarily qualify a student for a particular accommodation. Not all diagnoses rise to the level of a disability.

**The following criteria, adhering to federal standards, are assessed based on the severity of the condition. Severity is evaluated by a committee reviewing clinical documentation provided by an appropriately licensed professional. The essential assessments address the following:**

- Is there a negative health impact that may be permanent if the request is not met?
- Is the impact of the condition life threatening if the request is not met?
- Is the request an integral component of a treatment plan for the condition in question?
- Does the request center on room adaptations necessary for safe and independent occupancy in the residence hall?
- What is the likely impact on academic performance and/or social development if the request is not met?

**Following this initial assessment, Ashland University must internally evaluate:**

- Is space available that meets the student's needs?
- Can space be adapted to provide the requested configuration without creating a safety hazard (electrical load, emergency egress, etc.)?
- Are there other effective methods or housing configurations that would achieve similar benefits as the requested configuration?
- How does meeting this request impact housing commitments to other students?

**Following formal procedures and timing is essential when submitting an accommodation request. The process includes:**

- Was the request made along with the initial housing request (on the Residence Life portal)?
- Was the request made before the deadline for housing requests for the semester in question?
- Was the request made immediately after identifying the need? (Based on the date of diagnosis, receipt of housing assignment, change in status, etc.)
- Is there sufficient information to understand how the requested housing assignment relates to the condition's current impact? A diagnosed medical condition alone does not necessarily qualify a student for a particular accommodation, as not all diagnoses rise to the level of disability.

**Accommodations are about providing accessibility to on-campus housing and are not:**

- Based on preference or finances
- Solely to ensure the student is successful at AU (accommodations in higher education are to provide access, not success);
- To ensure a quiet, solitary place for studying
- To increase comfort or alleviate discomfort in the housing arrangement (such as by having a specific roommate or having a roommate free experience to avoid addressing typical roommate conflicts)
- To ensure a private space for virtual appointments
- Used as a prescription
- To foster treatment for a condition
- Designed to be part of a treatment plan

\*All recommendations will be considered; however final decisions will be determined by Ashland University.