

Rights & Responsibilities: **The SARC, The Student, & The Faculty**

Revised August 2019.

Title II of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) states:

"No qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, program, or activities of a public entity, or be subject to discrimination by any such entity..." (42 U.S.C., Section 12132)

The Student Accessibility Resource Center's (SARC) goal is to ensure that all students with disabilities are provided access to all facets of the Western Kentucky University experience; to facilitate and coordinate support services and programs that enable students with disabilities to maximize their educational potential; and to increase awareness among all members of the University so that students with disabilities are able to achieve academic success based on their abilities, not their disabilities.

The SARC's Responsibilities

The SARC has the responsibility to:

- Review documentation. Determine eligibility for accommodations.
- Engage in the interactive process by meeting with students in-person or through via technology.
- Consult with student about appropriate services based on the nature of the disability and the content, program, or environment.
- Generate the Faculty Notification Letter (FNL) for the student to notify faculty of their need for accommodation.
- Serve as an advocate for the student upon their request.

Student Rights

Students have the right to:

- An accessible education and reasonable accommodations.
- Participate in and enjoy the programs and services offered by WKU.
- Have information about their disability kept confidential.
- Present their FNL at the time of their choosing.
- Utilize each accommodation outlined on their FNL.
- Expect that faculty and staff will collaborate with the SARC and the student in providing accommodations.
- File a formal complaint through the SARC grievance process when denied accommodation, not provided recommended accommodations, or experiencing discrimination or retaliation based on disability.
- Not register with or request accommodations from the SARC.

Student Responsibilities

Students have the responsibility to:

- Be a self-advocate.
- Disclose disability by completing the registration process; providing documentation; and requesting accommodations.
- Obtain FNL from the SARC, review thoroughly, and seek clarification or assistance from the SARC as needed.
- Initiate accommodations in a timely manner by presenting the FNL to faculty or, when appropriate, to University staff and following the instructions outlined therein.
- Work with the faculty and the SARC to arrange accommodation.
- Communicate with the faculty and the SARC.
- Seek necessary academic and support services.
- Attend class regularly, complete assignments, and observe the code of conduct.

Faculty Rights

Faculty have the right to:

- Expect students to attend and participate in class.
- Expect that academic integrity be upheld.
- Determine course curricula.
- Provide input regarding the accommodations needed in their courses.
- Question accommodations that would fundamentally alter the nature of the course or compromise academic standards.
- Receive an FNL about the accommodations a student is has a right to receive.
- Provide timely notification to the SARC of specific needs.
- Not consider accommodations prior to receiving an FNL.

Faculty Responsibilities

Faculty have the responsibility to:

- Provide an atmosphere in which all students can learn course material.
- Include a syllabus statement referring students to the SARC for accommodations.
- Provide confirmation to the SARC that a student presented their FNL.
- Make academic adjustments in instruction as appropriate
- Provide accommodations in a fair and timely manner.
- Grade students based on their performance, without penalty for accommodation.
- Contact the SARC for suggestions with implementing accommodations and questions about the appropriateness of accommodations.

Links to Resources on the SARC website

The Registration Process:

https://www.wku.edu/sarc/registration_process.php

The Faculty Notification Letter (FNL):

<https://www.wku.edu/sarc/fnl.php>

General Accommodations and Services from the SARC:

<https://www.wku.edu/sarc/services.php>

Testing Services:

https://www.wku.edu/sarc/testing_services.php

Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing (DHH) Services:

https://www.wku.edu/sarc/dhh_services.php

Notetaking Services:

https://www.wku.edu/sarc/notetaking_services.php

Assistive Technology:

https://www.wku.edu/sarc/assistive_tech.php

Quick Guide for Student Registered with the SARC:

https://www.wku.edu/sarc/current_students.php

Resources for Faculty:

https://www.wku.edu/sarc/faculty_info.php

Frequently Asked Questions:

https://www.wku.edu/sarc/faq_stu.php (student)

https://www.wku.edu/sarc/faq_fs.php (faculty/staff)

The Grievance Process:

https://www.wku.edu/sarc/student_grievance.php