



Policy Title

ADA Accommodations Procedure Policy

Policy Number

1-002

Responsible Unit: Office of Academic Affairs	Effective Date: April 12, 2024
Responsible Official: Health, Wellness, and Disability Director	Last Reviewed Date: April 12, 2024
Policy Classification: Academic Affairs	Last Revised Date: April 12, 2024
	Origination Date: November 19, 2018

I. Policy Purpose

Southern University Law Center (SULC) prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, and all other SULC administered programs and activities. The purpose of this policy is to inform SULC faculty and students of the process for students to obtain accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

II. Policy Scope

This policy applies to faculty, staff, and students.

III. Policy Compliance

Failure of a student to abide by this policy may result in a student not obtaining an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and other applicable state or local laws. Failure of a faculty or staff member to abide by this policy may result in disciplinary action.

IV. Policy Definitions

Not applicable.

V. Policy Development and Implementation Procedure

This policy was developed by the SULC faculty to comply with the ADA, Section 504 of the

Rehabilitation Act and other applicable state and local laws as it relates to prohibiting discrimination against individuals with disabilities and providing reasonable accommodations within SULC's program of legal education.

VI. Policy and Applicable Procedures

A.

1. SULC adopts the Disability Services policy (Policy Number 13-004) of the Southern University System that was approved by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University A&M College System on November 1, 2023. Furthermore, SULC adopts any revisions or amendments to the Disability Services policy (Policy Number 13-004) of the Southern University System as approved by the Board of Supervisors of the Southern University A&M College System.
2. If there are any conflicts between this policy and the Disability Services policy (Policy Number 13-004) of the Southern University System, the Disability Services policy (Policy Number 13-004) shall supersede.

B.

1. The SULC faculty is completely comprised of individuals who have graduated from a law school accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA). The SULC faculty is comprised of individuals who are trained, knowledgeable, and experienced in providing a legal education to a unique student profile and ensuring that its graduates will enter the legal profession as licensed attorneys consistent with the ABA Standards that govern law schools.
2. The SULC Faculty carefully considered a series of requests to modify its program of legal education, gave careful and thoughtful consideration of the impact of modifying its program of legal education, to include alternatives to the modification requests, and concluded that certain requests for modification, listed in Section VI (C) of this policy, would constitute a substantial alteration to fundamental requirements of its program of legal education.

C.

1. SULC will make reasonable accommodations for documented disabilities. These accommodations may include, but are not limited to, course load modifications, extending the amount of time for graduation (not to exceed 84 months), or final exam modification. In keeping with the provisions of the ADA, an accommodation will not be approved: (1) that is incompatible with the technical standards for admission to, and completion of the program of legal education; (2) that alters the fundamental nature of the academic program; (3) that would result in a risk to the health or safety of the student or another individual; or (4) that would result in undue hardship to SULC. Requests for accommodations must be made as early as possible in order to allow adequate time for evaluating documentation and processing specific accommodations and arrangements. Late or last-minute requests for accommodations may not be processed and/or approved because of the time required to make such arrangements.
2. Class attendance is a fundamental requirement of SULC's program of legal education. Therefore, attendance policies may not be waived for any student.
3. SULC has created a program of legal education that develops various skills and abilities based on students being active participants in class. The delivery of educational material through the method of asking students questions and having them respond to questions is a fundamental requirement of SULC's program of legal education. For that reason, SULC will not deem a

student's request to be exempt from asking or answering questions in class as a reasonable accommodation.

4. SULC has structured its skills courses such that most assignments are foundational. Moreover, subsequent assignments reinforce knowledge, skills, and abilities that were presented in prior assignments. As such, the granting of extended time to complete assignments in skills courses would fundamentally alter the courses and would be unreasonable. Skill courses include Legal Analysis & Writing I, Legal Analysis & Writing II, Lawyering Process I, Legal Research, Advanced Legal Analysis & Writing, Trial Advocacy, Appellate Advocacy I, Appellate Advocacy II, and intervention courses (Lawyering Process II, Legal Methods, Legal Process, Advanced Torts, and Advanced Constitutional Law).
5. Doctrinal required courses must cover a certain amount of material within the term that the course is taught. Students must review the material prior to the material being covered in class and the best learning environment is one in which students are active participants. Therefore, to grant a student extended time to review material prior to a class session would fundamentally alter SULC's program of legal education and be unreasonable.
6. There will be some in-class assignments or tasks that students will be asked to perform that will not be graded but are necessary tools in teaching students how to apply legal concepts and/or rules to a set of facts. SULC will not grant a student extended time to complete such assignments as an accommodation. Such an action would fundamentally alter the skills that are being taught in the assignment or task.

VII. Policy History and Review Cycle


This policy was approved by the Academic Affairs Committee on November 19, 2018. The policy was updated to be placed in the uniform policy format on May 28, 2021. The policy was revised, on June 21, 2021, to clarify the persons responsible for certain actions under the policy. The policy was reviewed and updated, on November 18, 2022, to identify aspects of SULC's program that could not be altered as an accommodation under this policy because they are fundamental to the program of legal education. The policy was also updated, on November 18, 2022, to indicate that service animals are allowed as an accommodation. This policy was amended, on April 12, 2024, to adopt the Disability Services policy (Policy Number 13-004) of the Southern University System. In addition, the policy was amended, on April 12, 2024, to ensure proper alignment with the SU System's Disability Service policy (Policy Number 13-004). This policy should be periodically reviewed every three years by the Health, Wellness, and Disability Director.

VIII. Publication of Policy

This policy is published on the Southern University Law Center website at www.sulc.edu.

IX. Policy Approval

This policy was approved by the faculty on April 12, 2024:



John K. Pierre
Chancellor, Southern University Law Center

April 12, 2024
Date