Frequently Asked Questions

Does Bethel offer academic services for students with disabilities?

For any student who has been deemed eligible for special services, Bethel provides reasonable accommodations and/or modifications in order to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to participate in Bethel programs, services, and activities. The purpose of accommodations is not to ensure success, but rather to provide access and equal educational opportunity.

Do I have to disclose my disability to anyone at Bethel?

A student is not required to disclose his or her disability to the college. If a student chooses not to disclose his or her disability to the college, the student is not eligible for accommodations, nor is the college liable for failure to provide accommodations. If, however, a student applies to the Center for Academic Development for accommodations, the student must provide documentation of his or her disability. The student’s disability status will only be shared with relevant Bethel faculty, staff or administration on a need-to-know basis. After the student has been approved for accommodations at Bethel, the student will not receive retroactive accommodations on work completed before the approval for accommodations was made.

What are some of the services Bethel offers?

Academic services for students may include:

1. Accessible classrooms
2. Course aids (such as extra time for exams, recorders, and note takers)

Students are encouraged to talk with Dr. Daniel Quinlin to determine what accommodations may be most appropriate and effective. Please note that services and accommodations are only offered to students who are approved for them through the documentation process.

When should I submit my documentation?

The sooner, the better, as the documentation review process may take up to one week. Thus, students are encouraged to initiate the process as early as possible.

At my last school, I received different or more accommodations than Bethel is willing to grant me. Why is there such a difference in services between Bethel and my last school?

High schools often offer services and accommodations meant to help ensure a student's success. At college, the governing laws dictate that a college or university simply not discriminate against students with disabilities and provide access to curriculum. As a result, the services that a college provides may be vastly different from those to which students were accustomed in high school.
Similarly, students may find that services at Bethel are different than those that they might have received at another post-secondary institution. This is not unusual; colleges may have differing philosophies on accommodations or some schools may be able to offer access to more extensive services.

If a student has been denied an accommodation that he or she received at a previous school, some of the reasons for this may include the following:

- The documentation does not meet the college’s guidelines for such accommodations.
- Providing the accommodations would fundamentally alter the program, course, or activity.
- The accommodation being requested is not supported by the documentation.
- Providing the accommodation would pose a direct threat to the student or to others.
- Providing the accommodation would constitute an undue administrative or financial burden pursuant to the criteria established under the ADA and/or Section 504.
- The accommodation is in opposition to the educational philosophy of the college.

**Is it ever too late to request accommodations?**

There is no deadline for when a student can begin the documentation process to apply for accommodations; some students don't even get identified with a learning disability or other disabiling conditions until their senior year. However, accommodations will not be provided retroactively, and grades will not be changed after a student is approved for accommodations. Students who have used accommodations at their previous institution and who choose not to apply for accommodations when they arrive at Bethel should know that there is no opportunity to retake exams or courses if they are unsatisfied with their grades. Even if a student can establish that he or she had a disability at the time of the course in question, or used accommodations at a previous school, Bethel will not expunge or re-examine coursework completed before the student was reviewed and approved for accommodations at Bethel College.

If a student has been approved for accommodations, he or she will have to abide by certain timelines depending upon the kind of accommodation needed.

**Do I have to use all of my accommodations in every class?**

Some accommodations may not be appropriate for all classes. For example, if a student has been approved to use a blank sheet of paper as a placeholder on multiple choice exams, and the instructor gives only essay exams, then the accommodation is irrelevant.

If a student chooses, however, not to use an accommodation in a given class, then the student will not be given the chance for a re-test or a make-up an assignment with accommodations at a later date.

**Can I request an accommodation directly from my professor, before I have been approved for accommodations?**

No. Once you have submitted all necessary documentation to Dr. Daniel Quinlin and have signed a form requesting accommodations, Dr. Quinlin will contact the appropriate instructors with the requested accommodations.