**Frequently Asked Questions for**

**Parents of Marquette Students with Disabilities**

**How do the responsibilities of students with disabilities differ between high school and college?**

The responsibilities of students with disabilities in higher education institutions are very different from those of high schools. High schools are required, under IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), to identify the educational needs of students with a disability and provide a free and appropriate public education. However, this responsibility shifts from the school to the students in higher education.

Students are responsible for disclosing their disability by providing disability documentation to the Office of Disability Services (ODS), and requesting accommodations. After confirmation that the submitted documentation is sufficient, the student must work with ODS staff to arrange accommodations.

Once accommodations are determined, students are responsible for actively communicating with instructors to coordinate the provision of accommodations. Students must also decide if their accommodations are effective, and if not, contact ODS to discuss concerns.

**Does a student have to inform Marquette University that he or she has a disability?**

A student with a disability does not have to disclose the disability to Marquette University. Disclosure of a disability is on a voluntary basis. However, students will not receive accommodations unless they disclose this information through submission of documentation.

**Will a student’s admission to Marquette University be denied because he or she has a disability?**

All students need to meet the essential requirements set forth by the Office of Admissions to be accepted to Marquette. Denial of admission based solely on disability status, if a student is otherwise qualified, would be illegal under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students may wish to explore the accommodations process before, during, or after the application process.

**Are students guaranteed to receive the same accommodations in college as they did in high school?**

Students will not always receive the same accommodations in college. Higher education institutions are required to provide appropriate academic accommodations to ensure that a student with a disability is receiving *equal access*, while in high school, a path to *success* is guaranteed. In college, accommodations will be determined through an interactive process between student and ODS staff, with consideration of the student’s documentation, available resources, self-report from the student, and requirements of each course.

**As a parent, what is my role in the accommodations process at Marquette?**

ODS’ goal is to work directly with the student as early in the process as possible, both to help develop self-advocacy skills, and because they are legally responsible for the services that are set up. Some parents choose to be involved in the accommodations process before their student officially begins classes, but once classes start, students are solely responsible to explore and arrange accommodations.

**I’m worried about my child, can I speak with an ODS representative regarding my concerns?**

Parents are welcome to share concerns and other information about their child with ODS, but once a student begins classes, FERPA laws take effect and ODS staff cannot release information to parents about interactions with students. Students may choose to give ODS staff permission to release information to their parents, but giving ODS permission does not mean that representatives of the office are required to communicate with a parent. When information is shared, it will likely be more general in nature and parents and students will then be encouraged to discuss together the concern that was raised. *Note: an ODS release of information form for parents is separate from the release process through the Office of the Registrar for academic information.*

**Does the Office of Disability Services provide tutorial services?**

The office of Disability Services does not provide tutorial services; students can work with the Academic Resource Center’s for group tutoring and academic coaching support.

**Is there a charge for receiving accommodations from Disability Services?**

No, there is no charge for receiving accommodations from the Office of Disability Services.

**How does ODS communicate with students?**

The official means of communication between students and the University, including the Office of Disability Services, is through their Marquette email account. This means that students should be checking their email regularly to ensure that information is not missed.

**I have questions that aren’t answered here. Where can I find more information?**

ODS can be contacted by phone at (414)288-1645, or email at [ods@marquette.edu](mailto:ods@marquette.edu). Please visit our website for additional information: [marquette.edu/disability-services](https://www.marquette.edu/disability-services)