



## REASONABLE HOUSING ACCOMMODATIONS

### ACCESSIBILITY-RELATED ACCOMMODATION(S)

The Griff Center for Academic Engagement  
Accessibility Support  
Old Main • Room 317 • (716) 888-2746

The Griff Center for Academic Engagement – Accessibility Support Office and The Office of Student Life at Canisius College work together to promote academic excellence and personal growth for all Canisius students within a communal learning environment. Appropriate housing assignments enable students to build a foundation for academic success and create an environment that fosters healthy lifestyles within a community setting.

All students are expected to complete the appropriate Student Life housing process, meet the appropriate housing deadlines, and pay the housing deposit. In addition, students requesting reasonable housing accommodations must register with the Accessibility Support Office, complete the Accessibility Support Intake and Reasonable Housing Accommodation Forms, and provide proper documentation by a licensed or certified official.

It is recommended that students requesting accessibility-related housing should make an appointment with an Accessibility Support professional staff member at least 60 days in advance of move-in day and/or of the housing application deadline to discuss the requested accommodation(s). If a student is requesting an assistance or service animal, please reference the College's Assistance Animal Policy and Service Animal Policy in the Accessibility Support Office.

The Accessibility Support Office will only facilitate accessibility-related housing accommodations for Canisius students living in buildings/houses owned by Canisius College. Housing rates are set on the basis of the building, type of room, and occupancy of room. Rates are the same for all students regardless of a disability and a list of the rates are available in the Office of Student Life. **Students must fill out an accessibility-related housing form each academic year or if there are changes to the accommodation(s). All information regarding accessibility-related housing accommodations is kept in the Accessibility Support Office.**

#### Documentation

To assist in fully and fairly evaluating each request and ensuring that the proper accommodation(s) are made, the Accessibility Support Office requires:

- Documentation of the disability/condition, the functional limitations, and the treatment or prognosis (if applicable) that are the basis for the request;
- A clear description of the recommended housing accommodation;
- An explanation of how the request relates to the impact of the disability/condition;
- An indication of the level of need for the recommended accommodation;
- A statement of the level of need for (or the consequences of not receiving) the accommodation;
- Possible alternatives if recommended accommodation is not possible.

In order to fully evaluate the request, students need to provide current documentation as it is appropriate for their disability. The type-written documentation should be provided by a licensed physician or psychologist that describes the student's medical disability/condition and provides support for special housing accommodation(s). The documentation should include:

- A diagnostic statement including the date of the most recent evaluation;
- The current impact of (or limitations imposed by) the disability/condition with a description of the level of severity, duration, and frequency of the above medical or psychological disability/condition;
- Description of the current medical or psychological treatment plan, medications, devices or services currently prescribed or used to minimize the impact of the disability/condition;
- Description of how the current medical or psychological condition may require accessibility-related accommodations;
- Alternatives in the event that the requested accommodation is not possible.

# EVALUATION FOR ACCESSIBILITY-RELATED HOUSING

The Accessibility Support Office evaluates all requests for accessibility-related housing accommodations carefully. Below is a summary of the factors considered when evaluating accessibility-related housing accommodations.

## Severity of the Disability

- Is the impact of the disability life threatening if the request is not met?
- Is there a negative health impact that may be permanent if the request is not met?
- Is the request an integral component of a treatment plan for the disability?
- What is the likely impact on academic performance or social development if the request is not met?

## Timing of the Request

- Is the request made 60 days prior to move-in day and/or the housing application deadline?
- Is the request made during the semester that will impact room assignments and roommate notification?

## Availability and Feasibility of Accessibility-Related Housing Accommodation

- Is space available that meets the student's needs within reasonable means, while respecting the integrity of the communal learning environment?
- Is the student in special interest housing – can the requested accommodation be met within that area?
- Is it feasible to adapt space to provide the requested accommodation without creating a safety hazard (electrical load, emergency egress, allergies, etc.)?
- Are there other effective methods or housing accommodations that would achieve similar benefits as the requested accommodation?
- How does meeting this request impact housing commitments to other students?
- Is the cost of meeting the request prohibitive?

## Appeal Process

If a student with a documented disability believes that he/she has not been provided with a reasonable housing accommodation, the student should direct his/her concern to the Vice President of Student Affairs or designee. The student must provide in writing the nature of the concern and any other relevant information. The decision of the Vice President of Student Affairs or designee is final.

If you have questions about the process, please contact:  
CANISIUS COLLEGE  
The Griff Center for Academic Engagement • Accessibility Support  
Old Main – Room 317  
2001 Main Street • Buffalo, New York 14208  
Phone: 716/888-2746 • Fax: 716/888-3212  
[www.canisius.edu/dss](http://www.canisius.edu/dss)