Program Description

The primary purpose of the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) is to facilitate the education of students with disabilities by providing a point of coordination for the accommodations and services needed while attending the University of Maine. Some of the services provided or coordinated through DSS are alternative formatted textbooks, academic accommodations, readers, recorders, classroom relocation, priority registration, mediation and advocacy, as well as personal and educational counseling.

It is the policy of the University of Maine to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified individuals with disabilities. Federal law, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Maine Human Rights Act have established the rights of individuals with disabilities. These laws provide that the recipients of federal funds, employers and places of public access, shall make reasonable accommodation to the known physical and mental limitations of an otherwise qualified person with a disability.

Disability Information and the Admissions Process

Disclosing disability and documentation: All candidates for admission to the University of Maine are expected to meet academic performance standards and course program requirements. Candidates with disabilities who do not meet the minimal university admissions requirements may choose to provide the admissions office with additional information in order to shed light on their previous academic record.

Generally, this information should include, but is not limited to, a statement of disability from the individual’s health care provider (or other professional qualified to diagnose disability) identifying the specific nature of the disability, functional limitation and suggested accommodation; educational testing results; or related medical/psychological documentation; and curriculum accommodations provided at the secondary level.

Candidates with learning disabilities may choose to provide documentation as outlined in the “Guidelines for Documentation of Specific Learning Disability” paragraph below.

Please note: Submission of documentation of disability during the admissions process does not activate accommodations if the candidate is accepted. The student with the disability must contact Disability Services to arrange for specific academic accommodations while attending UMaine.

Disability documentation the candidate chooses to submit during the Admissions process should be sent to the Shared Processing Center along with the completed application.

Documentation of disability to be reviewed for academic accommodations after the candidate is accepted to UMaine should be sent to Disability Support Services.

University of Maine Guidelines for Documentation of a Specific Learning Disability: A learning disability generally is defined as a significant discrepancy between achievement and ability, or an intro-cognitive discrepancy not attributable to other handicapping conditions or to environmental deprivation.
**Documentation of Disability and Accommodation Need**

Please provide the following information under separate cover and on practice letterhead to the Office of Disability Support Services.

1. Presenting diagnosis(es) utilizing diagnostic categorization or classification of the ICD or DSM IV. Diagnoses should indicate primary, secondary, etc., and significant findings, particularly in respect to presenting problems.
2. Date the examination, assessment or evaluation was performed for the presenting diagnosis, or if following the student for an extended time, date of onset and date of an evaluation of the condition that is recent enough to demonstrate the student’s current level of functioning.
3. Tests, methodology used to determine disability (Aptitude, Achievement and Information Processing testing necessary for Learning Disability diagnosis).
4. Identify the current functional impact on the student’s physical, perceptual and cognitive performance in activities such as mobility, self care, note taking, laboratory assignments, testing/examinations and housing conditions/arrangements. Is this condition temporary? If temporary, what is the expected length of time to recovery?
5. Describe any treatments, medications, assistive devices/services the student is currently using. Note their effectiveness and any side effects that may impact the student’s physical, perceptual or cognitive performance.
6. Recommendations for accommodations. Explain the relationship between the student’s functional limitations and the recommendations.
7. Credentials (certification, licensure and/or training) of the diagnosing professional(s).

More specific documentation guidelines are online (umaine.edu/disability).

Send documentation to Disability Support Services. This information is kept confidential except as required by law.

**Admission Requirements**

An individual applying for admission to the University of Maine must satisfy the requirements for admission to the specific academic program of interest. Each program sets forth specific academic requirements for academic coursework at the high school level. The general university requirements include the reporting of Scholastic Assessment Test or American College Test scores. To determine academic preparation, applicants are expected to furnish high school and (for transfer applicants) post-secondary transcripts. Applicants still enrolled in high school are also expected to submit a guidance counselor recommendation. Additional specifications relating to the admissions process are detailed on the admissions application. Requests for accommodation in the application review may be initiated by the individual who needs accommodation and should be brought to the attention of the Admissions Office. A large type application and a computer disk version of the application in DOS and Macintosh are available from the Admissions Office upon request.

**About UMaine**

The University of Maine, founded in Orono in 1865, is the state’s premier public university. It is among the most comprehensive higher education institutions in the Northeast and attracts students from across the U.S. and more than 60 countries. It currently enrolls 12,000 total undergraduate and graduate students who can directly participate in groundbreaking research working with world-class scholars. Students are offered 88 bachelor’s degree programs, 64 master’s degree programs, 25 doctoral programs and one of the oldest and most prestigious honors programs in the U.S. The university promotes environmental stewardship on its campus, with substantial efforts aimed at conserving energy, recycling and adhering to green building standards in new construction. For more information about UMaine, go online (umaine.edu). Equal opportunity information also is available online (umaine.edu/eo).

**Academic Programs 2011–12**

The latest versions of the UMaine fact sheets are online (factsheets.umaine.edu). This fact sheet is intended for informational purposes only and is subject to change.