

# Student Disability Services FAQ for Incoming Students

Website: [sds.cornell.edu](http://sds.cornell.edu)

Facebook page: [facebook.com/CornellSDS](https://facebook.com/CornellSDS)

Phone: 607.254.4545

Fax: 607.255.1562

***Cornell Days Open Office Hours:*** SDS invites all prospective students and families visiting campus during Cornell Days to stop by 420 Computing and Communications Center between 2:00-4:00pm to meet SDS staff and learn more about disability services at Cornell! Appointments between 8:30am-4:00pm can also be scheduled in advance.

## **HEADS UP: WE'RE MOVING THIS SUMMER!**

**In August, our new home will be in the Cornell Health Building, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, 110 Ho Plaza.**

### *How do I apply for disability services or accommodations?*

Applying for SDS services and/or accommodations involves the student doing two things:

- 1) Complete the *Disability Self-Disclosure and Request for Access Accommodations Form* by visiting [sds.cornell.edu](http://sds.cornell.edu) and clicking on "Register with SDS".
- 2) Submit supporting disability documentation via fax at 607-255-1562 or upload it to SDS Online Services when you submit the above form or later when you have the medical information. In order to know what type of documentation is needed, please visit [sds.cornell.edu](http://sds.cornell.edu) and click on "Documentation Guidelines".

After this information is received, an SDS Counselor will be contact you by phone or email about next steps. If you are unsure whether you qualify for disability services and/or accommodations, you can indicate that on your registration form and a SDS Counselor will follow up with you to provide more information about eligibility for disability services.

### *What is the deadline for registering with SDS?*

If you are requesting a housing accommodation, you must submit the Self-Disclosure form and medical documentation by May 15<sup>th</sup>. For all other accommodations/services, please submit by June 17<sup>th</sup> to allow ample time for planning. A student can become registered with SDS at any point during their Cornell career. The above deadlines are applicable to any incoming student who is requesting accommodations for the fall semester.

### *I have allergies and/or asthma- can I get air conditioned housing?*

The Townhouses are air conditioned first year residential communities. Typically anyone who requests to live there will be assigned there. Beyond that, there are very few residential communities that are climate controlled and/or air filtered. Eligibility for any housing accommodations is determined by the severity of the disability and its impact on daily living, as well as the available housing options. Students should follow the registration process outlined above to be considered for housing accommodations of any kind.

*How current does my documentation need to be?*

Documentation guidelines vary depending on the type of disability. Current and comprehensive documentation is needed to determine not only a student's eligibility to receive accommodations, but also, their current levels of functioning. For learning disabilities and ADHD, this typically means that students have been evaluated within the last three years. Documentation for psychological disabilities must indicate the current impact of the mental health condition and demonstrate that the student has been substantially limited by the condition for more than several months. For physical, medical, and sensory disabilities, documentation should be current and indicate the severity of the condition and impact on daily living. Visit [sds.cornell.edu](https://sds.cornell.edu) and click on "Documentation Guidelines" for more details.

*I have a disability but I don't need any accommodations- should I still register with SDS?*

We encourage all students to register with SDS! Cornell is committed to creating a campus community that is inclusive of all aspects of diversity and identity, including disability identity. SDS serves as a resource to all students who have a disability, at any point in your Cornell career. By registering with SDS, you may avail yourself of resources and opportunities that may be beneficial, whether you utilize accommodations/services or not. When you complete the Self-Disclosure form you will see you can indicate you are not requesting any services or accommodations at this time.

*I have a medical condition but never thought of it as a disability. Should I still register?*

This happens a lot. At Cornell, when students ask for modifications to policies in courses or housing for a medical condition, the requests must be facilitated through SDS. It is also possible you may not realize until you get to campus and start engaging with classes and the campus that you need something. That is ok too- you can register with SDS at any point in your Cornell career.

*Can I get a learning disability or ADHD re-evaluation done at Cornell?*

No. Cornell does not have services for LD or ADHD evaluations. Students need to submit current and comprehensive evaluations when requesting disability services. Please visit [sds.cornell.edu](https://sds.cornell.edu) and click on "Documentation guidelines" for more information.

*Will my registration with SDS be kept confidential?*

SDS keeps documentation and registration status information in a secure location. When sharing information with faculty/campus partners involved in the provision of accommodations, we focus on the accommodation you need for equal access, not on the disability. Confidentiality and disclosure protocols can be found under "Policies and Procedures" here: [sds.cornell.edu/students.html](https://sds.cornell.edu/students.html).

*Are there any student groups or clubs that have a disability focus?*

Yes! The list is changing every year, and each group has various means of advertising (i.e. websites, Facebook pages). We have a partial list available at [sds.cornell.edu](https://sds.cornell.edu) by clicking on "Student Organizations that Support Persons with Disabilities". Current information on Cornell's student organizations is available at [cornell.edu](https://cornell.edu) via the "Student Life" link.

**Read more FAQs at our website in the "For Prospective Students" section or feel free to contact us with any other questions!**