



## **Dietary/Meal Plan Modifications**

Center for Academic Success and Achievement

Disability/Access Services

### **Policy**

Associate Dean of Academic Success works collaboratively with the Department of Dining Services, Residential Life and Health Services in order to provide accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. Students with documented dietary restrictions may request dietary modification. Reasonable accommodations depend upon the nature and degree of severity of the documented disability. While the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 requires that priority consideration be given to the specific methods requested by the student, it does not imply that a particular accommodation must be granted if it is deemed not reasonable and other suitable techniques are available.

### **Procedure**

- Students must present appropriate medical documentation which establishes the need for an accommodation and relates the current impact of the condition to the requested accommodation. Documentation will be kept confidential and maintained by Disability/Access Services only. Guidelines for medical documentation are provided on the back of this page. Students are encouraged to share these guidelines with their physicians.
- Students must meet with the Director of Dining Services and the Dining Services Dietician in order to determine whether or not modifications can be made in the Dining Commons based on the student's specific dietary needs.
- After meeting with the dietician and University Director of Dining Services, if a student still feels that their dietary needs cannot be accommodated in the dining halls, students should contact Disability/Access Services.
- Decisions will be based on the documented need of the student as verified by the physician, the recommendation of the committee, and the capacity of Dining Services to accommodate the need.

### **Guidelines for Medical Documentation**

The following information should be shared with the appropriate medical professional treating the student. The diagnostician must be an impartial individual who is not a family member of the student. Documentation consists of an evaluation by an appropriate professional that relates the current impact of the condition to the request, and should include:

- A diagnostic statement including the date of the most recent evaluation;
- The current impact of (or limitations imposed by) the condition;
- Treatments, medications, devices or services currently prescribed or used to mitigate the impact of the condition;
- The expected duration, stability or progression of the condition.

In addition to the basic documentation for a condition described above, recommendations from the treating professional are welcome and will be given consideration in evaluating a request. However, final determination regarding an accommodation will be made by the University. Recommendations should include:

- A clear description of the modification requested;
- An explanation of how the modification will mitigate the condition;

- Treatments, medications, devices or services currently prescribed or used to mitigate the impact of the condition;
- A statement of the level of need for (or consequences of not receiving) the modification.

**Practitioners are reminded that all resident students are required to participate in a Framingham State University meal plan.**