

The Student Perspective

Would you like to know more about how to get the most benefit from your Students with Disabilities Services (SDS) approved accommodations? Read on for advice and tips from graduating students who have used disability accommodations at The University of South Florida.

For those who use a note taker in class:

- If you have a choice between note takers, ask to see their notes before making a choice so you can decide whose note taking style works best for you.
- If confidentiality is important to you, ask the professor if he is willing to collect notes from your note taker and pass them on to you.
- Do not rely solely on your note taker. Try to take some notes on your own and use your note taker's notes to fill in the gaps.
- Speak with your professor to see if he is able to email class PowerPoint slides to you.
- Print out notes and PowerPoint slides and keep them together in a folder that you can easily access.
- Inform your note taker that SDS has a copy machine they may use free of charge to photocopy notes.
- Make sure to thank your note taker.

Be proactive! Request your accommodations before you need them. SDS cannot make your accommodations apply retroactively.

Meet your professors outside of class to discuss your accommodations. Visiting during office hours will give you plenty of time to discuss your needs in a private setting.

Check with each professor to make sure he or she understands how to provide your SDS accommodations. If they have questions you can't answer, give them the contact information for SDS.

During the semester, try to meet with each professor frequently to discuss your progress in the class. You may find that you have more incentive to keep up with your coursework if you know you will be seeing your professor during office hours.

Use your accommodations! A little effort at the beginning of the semester (requesting your Memos of Accommodation, presenting them to your teachers, finding a note taker, etc.) can prevent big problems later in the semester.

Communication with both SDS and your professor is key. Talk with your professors before you have to miss class for a disability-related reason, and communicate any issues to your SDS coordinator.

If questions arise, do not be afraid to ask someone at SDS. They are there to help you. Good luck during your semester using accommodations from the SDS department. GO BULLS!

