

EVALUATION OF HOUSING REQUESTS

To accurately and equitably evaluate requests based on medical, psychological, or other disability-related conditions, SMU will need sufficient information *to understand how the requested housing assignment relates to the current impact of the condition*. For those with medical conditions, such documentation generally consists of an evaluation by an appropriate professional providing treatment for the condition.

The presence of a diagnosed medical condition alone does not necessarily qualify a student for a particular accommodation. Not all diagnoses rise to the level of a disability. Accommodations are about providing accessibility to on-campus housing and are **not**:

- based on preference or finances;
- prescriptions;
- treatment for a condition;
- designed to be part of a treatment plan;
- ameliorating a disability.

Recommendations will be considered; however final decisions will be determined by the University.

DASS staff members consider not only the outside supporting documentation the student shares, but also all of the following:

- **SEVERITY OF THE CONDITION**

1. Is there a negative health impact that may be permanent if the request is not met?
2. Is impact of the condition life threatening if the request is not met?
3. Is the request an integral component of a treatment plan for the condition in question?
4. Does the request center on room adaptations necessary for safe and independent occupancy in the residence hall?
5. What is the likely impact on academic performance and/or social development if the request is not met?

- **TIMING OF THE REQUEST**

1. Was the request made along with the initial housing request (on the Residence Life and Student Housing-RLSH portal)?
2. Was the request made before the deadline for housing requests for the semester in question?
3. Was the request made as soon as possible after identifying the need. (Based on date of diagnosis, receipt of housing assignment, change in status, etc.)

- **FEASIBILITY & AVAILABILITY**

1. Is space available that meets the student's needs?
2. Can space be adapted to provide the requested configuration without creating a safety hazard (electrical load, emergency egress, etc.)?
3. Are there other effective methods or housing configurations that would achieve similar benefits as the requested configuration?
4. How does meeting this request impact housing commitments to other students?