

Dining Accommodation Policy and Procedure

Assumption University is deeply committed to the full participation of students with disabilities in all aspects of University life, including the dining experience. In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Assumption has established procedures to ensure that students with documented disabilities have access to meal plan accommodations that reasonably meet their needs as required by law. According to the ADA, a disability is defined as any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits the individual in a major life activity compared to the average person. There must also be a legitimate connection between the disability and the requested accommodation.

As a residential university, Assumption requires all students living on campus to participate in the meal plan available through the University's Dining Services, with the exception of students living in on-campus apartments. All students' needs can be met through the standard meal plan. Dining Services offers many options to meet students' needs and is happy to accommodate dietary requirements. Simple Servings, located in Taylor Dining Hall, is our allergen-safe dining option offering meals free from peanuts, tree nuts, shellfish, wheat, soy, milk products, eggs, and gluten-containing ingredients. Our monitored MyZone Allergen-friendly area in Taylor Dining Hall is equipped with dedicated appliances, toasters and microwaves to reduce any risks of cross-contamination with gluten, peanuts and tree nuts.

When requesting a meal plan accommodation, students must meet with Dining Services to discuss their specific food allergy or medical dietary need/restriction and send documentation of their allergy or medical dietary need/restriction to Student Accessibility Services. Dining services will work with the student to reasonably accommodate their needs. If it is determined that the student's needs cannot be met by Dining Services, the student may request a meal plan exemption. Requests are submitted to the Office of Student Accessibility Services and must be accompanied by proper documentation from a physician or other qualified professional as determined by the University. Given the ability to accommodate a varied range of dietary needs, an exemption from participation in the meal plan is rare and will only be considered when the student's needs cannot be met by Dining Services. Requests for meal plan exemptions based on dietary preferences or for financial reasons will not be granted.

Requests for meal plan exemptions are reviewed by the Student Accommodations Committee. The Committee is comprised of representatives from Health Services, Counseling Services, Residential Life and Student Accessibility Services. Students are informed of the Committee's decision by email within one week of the Committee's review.

Students who are not granted a meal plan accommodation or exemption through this process have the right to appeal the Committee's decision. Appeals must be received, in writing, by the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs within 7 working days of the Committee's Communication.