

The University of the Incarnate Word is committed to providing a supportive, challenging, diverse, and integrated environment for all students.

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973—Subpart E and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the University ensures accessibility to its programs, services, and activities for students with documented disabilities.

To qualify for services, the student must provide the Office of Student Disability Services appropriate documentation of his or her disability at the time services and/or accommodations are requested.

This brochure is available
in alternate format
upon request

*Information provided by the University of Southern California

The University of the Incarnate Word
Student Disability Services

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San Antonio, TX 78209

Administration Building Room # 105
Phone 210-829-3997
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Student Disability Services

**The University of
the Incarnate Word**



**Chronic
Illness**

**Administration Building
Room 105**

Telephone: 210-829-3997

Chronic Illness

Students affected by chronic illnesses may have what is referred to as systemic disabilities. These are conditions characterized by a dysfunction of one or more of the body's systems: respiratory, immunological, neurological, and/or circulatory. As a result of the unstable nature of systemic disabilities, accommodations must be flexible.

Accommodations for students with systemic disabilities may include conveniently located parking, note-takers, extended time to complete a task, modified course load, flexible deadlines, relocation of a meeting or class, early syllabi, and exam modifications

Examples of disabled forms of chronic illness include:

Cancer is a malignant growth that can affect any part of the body. Treatment can be time consuming, painful, and may result in permanent disability.

Diabetes mellitus causes a person to lose the ability to regulate blood sugar. People with diabetes often need to follow a strict diet and may require insulin injections. During a diabetic reaction, a person may experience confusion, sudden personality changes, or loss of consciousness. In extreme cases, diabetes can also cause vision loss, cardiovascular disease, kidney failure, stroke, or necessitate the amputation of limbs.

Epilepsy/seizure disorder causes a person to experience a loss of consciousness. Episodes or seizures vary from the short-absence *petit mal* seizure to the less common *grand mal*. Seizures may be controlled by medication and are usually not emergencies.

Epstein-Barr virus/chronic fatigue syndrome/fibromyalgia are autoimmune disorders which cause extreme fatigue, loss of appetite, and depression. Physical or emotional stress may adversely affect a person with any of these conditions.

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV+), which causes AIDS, inhibits one's ability to fight off illness and infections. Symptoms vary greatly. People with HIV or AIDS are often stigmatized.

Lyme Disease is a multisystemic condition which can cause paralysis, fatigue, fever, dermatitis, sleeping problems, memory dysfunction, cognitive difficulties, and depression. It is caused by the bite of a tick.

Lupus erythematosus can cause inflammatory lesions, neurological problems, extreme fatigue, persistent flu-like symptoms, impaired cognitive ability, connective tissue damage, and mobility impairments.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a progressive neurological condition with varieties of symptoms such as loss of strength, numbness, vision impairment, tremors, and depression. The intensity of MS symptoms can vary greatly; one day a person might be extremely fatigued, and the next day feel strong. Extreme temperatures can adversely affect a person with MS.

Muscular dystrophy (MD) is a group of diseases in which muscles progressively weaken and shrivel away. The most common type of MD starts in childhood and initially effects the muscles of the shoulders, hips, calves, and thighs.

Renal disease/failure can result in the loss of bladder control, extreme fatigue, pain, and toxic reactions which can cause cognitive difficulties. Some people with renal disease are on dialysis and

Instructional Strategies

Systemic disabilities often require instructional strategies similar to those listed for other disability conditions. The use of such strategies will depend on how the disability is manifested. If a faculty member would like more information about instructional strategies for students contact **Student Disability Services**.