

FAQs

Why is this student taking the test with OLR when I can provide accommodations? We advise all students to speak with their instructor BEFORE scheduling tests with OLR as many instructors can provide necessary accommodations without involving OLR. This is the first reminder on the website where students make their formal request to schedule a test. That being said, OLR has no way to confirm that a student has talked with her or his instructor.

As a result, when a student makes a test scheduling request, we send the confirmation email that the test has been scheduled with OLR. In this email, we state that it is our assumption that the student has communicated with the instructor. Should a faculty member have a concern, feel that any test was scheduled in error, or believe the student did not communicate their accommodation needs, we encourage the faculty member to communicate directly with the student. If changes become necessary, we request that either the instructor or the student update OLR.

How can I coordinate accommodations for a pop quiz? OLR would be happy to talk with individual instructors regarding options for coordination of accommodations in conjunction with a pop quiz. Depending on the nature of the quiz, there may be various options available however it is important to remember that test accommodations including extended time and assistive technology may apply for pop quiz environments just as they do for exams.

Why is this student testing at a different time from class? In some cases, a student schedules a testing time different from the class in order to ensure they can use their extended time accommodations without missing another class (if they have back-to-back classes, for example). OLR encourages all students to communicate this need to their instructor. If a student has not communicated with you regarding this need, you can follow up with the student to determine if they have a viable reason for the different testing time.

Why does OLR only offer tests at 8:30 am and 12:30 pm during finals week? OLR administers a very large number of tests each day during finals week. We use block scheduling for a variety of reasons: to limit the distraction of students coming and going from the testing rooms, as limited distraction is one of the accommodations used by many students; to maximize available space: OLR has limited space for testing so if some students start at 10 am, they take a seat for two testing periods; to maximize efficiency of staffing: by starting all tests at 8:30 am and 12:30 pm, we can maximize our available staff to monitor all testing rooms

How "lenient" do I have to be with attendance as an accommodation? Attendance is a difficult area to accommodate, which is why we suggest being "lenient" with class attendance policy. Any student who has this as an accommodation on their Self ID Letter should be communicating with their instructors regarding their difficulties with attendance. This is not a one-time discussion, but on-going communication when absences occur. Students are advised that there are some classes where leniency is not an option because learning is significantly impacted when the student is not in class (e.g. lab work). Ultimately, it is up to the instructor and/or the department as to how lenient they can be with attendance. Their decision needs to be made in the context of the particular course and regular communication with the student.

Why do some extended times vary? Some students will have 1.5 times and others will have 2 times for test accommodations. This is based upon the disability information that is presented by the student. Do you have concerns about extended time in testing? Please communicate with OLR.

What if I believe the accommodation will change the essential functions of the course? Based on legislative guidelines, reasonable accommodations cannot alter the essential functions of a course. It is critical that instructors work within their department to identify the essential functions of a course, as this is a process that needs advanced planning. If assistance is needed, OLR is an excellent resource. Once essential functions are identified, instructors and/or departments can better determine if an accommodation would impact any essential functions of the course. This decision will take into account the department's position as well as the accommodations requested. In some cases, accommodations can be modified. In other cases, an accommodation may not be advisable given the essential functions of a course. As a general rule, accommodations should be continued as listed in the Self ID Letter until a formal decision is made.