

Housing for Medical or Disability-Related Needs ~ 2009-2010

The Office of Residential Life realizes that some individuals need special living environments to ensure their health and well-being while at Dartmouth. The College offers services and has developed procedures to address the medical and psychiatric needs of students. In addition to being located close to the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, the College has a full staff of medical and psychiatric providers on campus in Dick's House, the student health center. Dick's House also offers an infirmary for students who may need short-term medical care.

Dartmouth College provides support services and reasonable accommodations to students with medical and/or psychiatric disabilities who qualify under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The College strives to address functional limitations and behavioral manifestations by making reasonable accommodations for each qualifying condition. Examples are accessible rooms for mobility-impaired students, and fire alarm devices for deaf students. In addition, we provide temporary assistance for short term conditions if space permits, such as locating a student on a ground floor location while recuperating from knee surgery.

All requests are reviewed by a committee of specialists in medical conditions, disabilities, and residential operations. This committee reviews the information provided and makes recommendations. A number of students request special accommodations for symptoms of allergies and asthma. Due to the generally cool climate in New Hampshire, the residence halls are not air conditioned, nor are students permitted to provide air conditioners for their rooms except in rare instances of disability. As part of the standard furniture and room arrangements, student rooms are carpeted. Students with allergies or asthma generally do well in this environment without any special arrangements. If allergies or asthma for the basis of a special housing request full medical documentation will be required including skin test results for allergies. Those students whose conditions are substantially limiting to a major life activity must provide detailed medical documentation to show why the condition qualifies as a disability.

Students seeking assistance for special housing should have a medical care provider (non-relative) respond to all questions on the reverse side of this sheet and supply appropriate medical documentation to the Housing Office as soon as possible. Please note that special housing for medical needs must be requested and approved annually. We know that medical conditions change over time, both positively and negatively. As a result, we require updated medical records and application each year to ensure appropriate housing. Students with special needs are assigned prior to the rest of the class. **The deadline for first-year students to apply for special housing is June 22, 2009.**

**Dartmouth College ~ Office of Residential Life
Housing for Medical or Disability-Related Needs
Medical Care Provider Form**

Student Name: _____ Class Year: _____

Doctor/Medical Care Provider's Name: _____

In order to ensure the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodations and services, current and comprehensive documentation is required. It should be submitted with professional letterhead and the qualifications of the examiner provided. **A decision on housing accommodations can not be made without proper documentation, either through this form and any supporting test results, or through documentation on file with the Student Accessibility Services office at 301 Collis Center (Student.Accessibility.Services@Dartmouth.edu).**

Please answer the following questions (please attach additional pages if additional space is required):

1. Specific Diagnosis.
2. Date of the diagnosis and last contact with student.
3. Statement as to the activities substantially limited by the condition and the level of severity.
4. Description of the student's functional limitations or behavioral manifestations in a college residence hall setting.
5. Medical recommendations regarding reasonable accommodations for this student in a college residence hall (based on questions 3 & 4).
6. Copies of tests or laboratory work that support the diagnosis (please attach).
7. Describe the type and frequency of medications taken related to diagnosis.

Documentation will be kept in a confidential file available only to members of the housing selection committee, whose recommendations are based on whether the medical documentation meets the above guidelines. The committee's decisions will be announced shortly after the deadline for each term and students will be notified of in writing.

Please return this information to the Office of Residential Life, 6231 North Massachusetts Hall, Hanover, NH 03755. Please contact the Housing Office at 603-646-3093 with any questions that you may have.

Signature of Physician/Medical Care Provider: _____

***Note:** Students who wish to register with Student Accessibility Services should contact them at Student.Accessibility.Services@Dartmouth.edu or (603) 646-9900. See www.Dartmouth.edu/~accessibility for more information.*