



## **ATU Student Disability Access Policy**

Arkansas Tech University (ATU) is committed to providing access, equal educational opportunity, and full participation for all students, including students with disabilities, in accordance with all provisions established by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, sections 504 and 508, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), and the Arkansas RISE Act (Act 907) of 2025.

The fundamental principles of nondiscrimination in university programs provide that:

1. No student with a qualified disability shall, on the basis of the disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefit of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any post-secondary education activity or program; and
2. Reasonable adjustments, determined on an individual, case-by-case basis, to academic courses, activities or other university programs, shall be made in a timely manner and as are necessary to ensure that such requirements do not discriminate or have the effect of discrimination on a student with a qualified disability; and
3. The university shall create an educational environment where students with disabilities have equal access to instruction without compromising the essential components and technical requirements of the course, educational program or degree. The Office of Disability Services is responsible for determining a student's eligibility for reasonable accommodations and academic adjustments for all ATU Russellville programs and courses, in the university's residence halls, and auxiliary services. For ATU Ozark courses and programs, the Student Success and Disability Services Coordinator is designated to approve student accommodations and adjustments due to the impact of disability.

### **Documentation**

Documentation requested during the interactive process serves multiple purposes:

1. To establish a student as a student with a disability;

2. To demonstrate that the physical or mental disability creates a substantial limitation to a major life activity and establish eligibility for protection under the law;
3. To establish a current need for an accommodation(s) in order to assure equal access.

Medical records, psycho-educational testing reports, military disability records, and previous educational records or plans from a public or private school, a local educational agency, or a state educational agency such as an IEP, 504 plan, or accommodation letter from another college or university will be considered when evaluating whether a student is a student with a disability. Third-party documentation provided during the determination process must come from an appropriate professional; letters purchased online after a brief interview are not adequate support of disability status or the need for adjustments based on disability.

## **Accommodation Request Process**

No student with disabilities is required to register with the Office of Disability Services, or the ATU Ozark designee, if they are not seeking an accommodation.

Students seeking accommodations must initiate the interactive process through an online application available on both the [ATU Russellville Office of Disability Services](#) and [ATU Ozark Student Success Center](#) websites. Assistance with this application is available upon request. Accommodations are not retroactive, so early contact is encouraged.

The Office of Disability Services (or the ATU Ozark designee) will engage in an interactive process with the student and, if needed, the faculty or staff of the course or program for which the adjustment is requested, to review the request(s) as well as the barrier(s) the student identifies as the reason for the request. Any alternate reasonable accommodation(s) that is effective in affording the student equal opportunity will be reviewed and may be approved in lieu of the original request. The student's continuous participation in the interactive process is essential for it to be effective, and not doing so may delay or end the process. Students are responsible for ongoing assessment of the effectiveness of their approved accommodation(s). Students with questions or concerns about their accommodation(s) should contact the Office of Disability Services (or the ATU Ozark designee) as soon as possible.

Any ATU faculty or staff who believes an accommodation would fundamentally or substantially alter an essential requirement of a course or program or pose an undue burden on ATU should contact the Office of Disability Services, or the ATU Ozark designee, and request a Fundamental Alteration Review.

The responsibility for providing approved adjustments or accommodations is shared across all areas of the university, including academic programs and courses, the university housing

program, dining services, and any other area in which an adjustment or accommodation is requested based on disability and approved.

## **Contact Info**

ATU Russellville:

Office of Disability Services  
Doc Bryan Student Services Center, Suite 141  
1605 Coliseum Drive  
Russellville, AR 72801  
Phone: (479) 968-0302  
Fax: (479) 968-0375  
TTY Hearing Impaired Services: (479) 964-3290  
Email: [disabilities@atu.edu](mailto:disabilities@atu.edu)

ATU Ozark:

Ozark Student Success Center  
Technology and Academic Support, Suite 140  
1700 Helberg Lane  
Ozark, AR 72949  
Phone: (479) 968-0337  
Email: [ozark.accommodations@atu.edu](mailto:ozark.accommodations@atu.edu)