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3-17-2020

Coronavirus Community Updates_FAQ_Accessibility Accommodations and Student Accessibility Services

University of Maine Student Accessibility Services

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Novel Coronavirus Community Updates

Home Remote teaching Remote learning FAQs Latest updates Workplace guidelines Travel guidelines

Frequently Asked Questions

- Pass/fail and other academics questions
- Accessibility accommodations and Student Accessibility Services
- Faculty and staff
- Office of Innovation and Economic Development and Foster Innovation Center program changes
- Room and board, and other budget questions
- Student veterans
- UMaine and UMM community alerts
- UMaine, UMM community members returning to campus
- UMaine ongoing campus life and events
- UMaine research and graduate school
- UMM ongoing campus life and events

Resources and updates

- Remote teaching resources from CITL
- Remote learning resources from UMaine Online
- Tools for remote work, teaching and learning from UMS Information Technology
- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus Disease information
- Maine Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus Response
- Maine Emergency Management Agency
- Latest announcements from Maine Governor's Office
- University of Maine System Information and updates regarding Coronavirus

UMS Chancellor Malloy's update, April 3
Published: April 03, 2020

UMS-IT Zoom security update, April 2
Published: April 03, 2020

Updated FAQs, April 2
Published: April 02, 2020

HR update on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, April 1
Published: April 02, 2020

UMS news release on room and board reimbursements, student fees, April 1
Published: April 01, 2020

Accessibility accommodations and Student Accessibility Services

Note: These UMaine/UMM FAQs are subject to change at any time. Please check this site regularly for the latest information as it becomes available. The most recent additions and changes are at the top of this page. Last modified March 17, 2020.

Is the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) Office open for appointments?

While the SAS office remains open, all student appointments will be conducted by phone or online via Zoom until further notice. You can schedule an appointment by calling 207.581.2319.

Will I continue to receive my approved accommodations for online courses?

Yes. Students approved for accommodations through SAS will continue to receive accommodations, but the accommodations they need may change. Accommodations like extra time on tests will be available for any classes provided through Blackboard or another learning management system. However, some accommodations may no longer be applicable, such as a low distraction testing environment on campus. Contact SAS if you have questions related to a specific accommodation.

Can I obtain accommodations if I haven't done so already or change my accommodations?

Yes. We continue to schedule initial appointments for students interested in discussing their eligibility for accommodations. Prior to scheduling a phone call or Zoom meeting, please review our [accommodations process](#).

If you are not currently connected with Student Accessibility Services, please complete [this form](#) and send it to um.sas@maine.edu. Someone from our office will reach out to discuss next steps.

If you have already connected with SAS, please contact us at um.sas@maine.edu or individually:

- Sara Henry, shenry@maine.edu
- Amy Sturgeon, amy.m.sturgeon@maine.edu
- Julie Cheville, julie.cheville@maine.edu

How do I receive extended time for my online exams?

While online instruction is in place at UMaine, SAS will not be proctoring exams in our office. Instructions for faculty on how to extend time on Blackboard is available on [this website](#). Please communicate with your instructors to discuss your exam accommodations in their courses before the time your next test is scheduled. Some instructors may opt for alternative assessments (e.g. essays, untimed exams) that would not require exam accommodations. SAS is available to instructors and students to consult about unique circumstances. Please contact us with testing questions at um.sas@maine.edu. If you are concerned, please contact instructors prior to your next exam to confirm that extended time has been preset by the instructor within Blackboard or other learning management system. If you need assistance with this, please contact SAS.

I am currently receiving notes from a peer notetaker for one or more of my classes. Will I still receive the notes?

First, consider how your instructors have adapted their courses for virtual instruction. You may find you no longer need this accommodation. Some instructors may be providing you with recorded lectures and videos that can be watched at your own pace or watched multiple times. We have recently contacted students who are currently receiving notes from a peer notetaker to learn what course notes might still be necessary; for example, in courses where there are live lectures, but no access to recordings. Please check your email and reply to our survey if you have not done so already. All current notetakers will continue to receive compensation.

I have questions about my other accommodations?

The shift to online instruction may affect the need for some accommodations, such as flexible attendance. Please contact SAS and your instructors to discuss any additional barriers presented by changes to the course format.

I rely on Sonocent for my audio notetaking. Will changes be necessary?

Sonocent can still be used with online lectures. In this case, you might wish to download the Sonocent app on your mobile phone and transfer the recording to your device at a later time via a USB cable. For assistance, we recommend [this tutorial](#).

What do I do in the absence of a human reader for my online exams?

We encourage you to download an e-reader to use on any online exams. If you are not already using an e-reader, please explore one of the following e-reader options:

- [Natural Reader](#)
- [TTS Reader](#)
- [Adobe Reader](#)
- [Voice Dictation for Mac Users](#)
- [Read&Write for Google Chrome](#)

If you are unable to use an e-reader, please contact SAS to discuss other methods of accommodation by calling 207.581.2319 or by emailing um.sas@maine.edu.

What do I do if I have used a human scribe as an accommodation on essay or written tests?

If you are not already using dictation software, please explore one of the following options:

- [Dragon for PC](#)
- [Microsoft Dictation Pro](#)
- [Windows Speech Recognition](#)
- [Voice Note II Chrome Extension](#)
- [Set Dictation option on Mac or Siri on an iPad](#)
- [Braina Pro](#)
- [Google Docs Voice Typing](#)

What if I need a scribe for classes in math, science, or other courses?

Please contact SAS as soon as possible to discuss arrangements for upcoming exams.

I'm having difficulty with accessibility in my online courses, what do I do?

If you need assistance because your course materials are not accessible, please contact um.sas@maine.edu and your faculty member to let us know and we will help. A variety of materials are available to [support faculty](#) and students (see links below) in the transition to online instruction and online learning as well as [creating accessible course materials](#). All requests for captioned videos or lectures or audio descriptions should be made as soon as possible so we can work with vendors to provide captioning.

- [Tips for online students](#) from UMaine Online
- [Succeeding in online courses](#) from USM
- [10 Strategies for online learning during a coronavirus outbreak](#) from the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)

