

Personal Statement Recommendations for the University of Redlands

The Personal Statement is important for the Accommodations Committee because it can provide context for your request, which the professional who completes part of your housing accommodation request may not provide. It allows the Committee to hear your “voice,” so to speak, and to get a better sense of the reasoning behind your request.

Your statement is also important because it is important to demonstrate how your diagnosis/es rise to the level of an impairment that necessitates the request you are making. This is about demonstration of need vs. preference.

The length of the personal statement can vary from a minimum of 1 – 2 pages, but can certainly be longer. The statement needs to completely and thoroughly represent the need you feel you have, providing as much detail as possible. Some questions have been provided to help you think through and evaluate the information you want to share in your statement.

Your personal statement requesting accommodations may include, but is not limited to, answers to some of the following questions or statements. Some of the following may not be applicable to your individual situation:

- 1) Identify in what ways your academic performance is affected by your disability or disabilities.
- 2) What housing accommodation is best to help you succeed at the University? Provide reasoning as to why you feel this specific accommodation supports your academic performance.
- 3) Ensure your disability is in alignment with your written documentation from your care provider. If the information listed is not consistent, more explanation will be requested.
- 4) How have these diagnoses manifested prior to college and how have they manifested during college?
- 5) How has your diagnosis affected social interactions and relationships?
- 6) If you are requesting to live in a single room, why is this necessary as opposed to preferred? Why is this request different than attending classes and interacting with students on a regular basis (student organizations, meals in the dining hall, social events, etc.)?
- 7) The living situation with a former roommate may have turned out to be very difficult and challenging – what were the reasons this was the case, and in what ways is your struggle more than adjusting to a different personality (i.e., your roommate)?
- 8) Is there any other information you wish to share which you feel is relevant for the Accommodations Committee to know about your disability and/or your request?