Rutgers Housing for Students with Disabilities

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey is committed to providing equal educational opportunity and to support the full participation of students with disabilities in our campus community. Accordingly, Rutgers provides reasonable and appropriate housing accommodations to students with disabilities who choose to live on-campus.

Applicants with questions or concerns about living on campus on the New Brunswick campus as a student with a disability should contact Joan D'Orvilliers at 732-932-4371.

Questions About Housing Accommodations for Students With Disabilities

- What is a disability?
- How can I request special housing if I have a disability?
- Should I still register for Housing if I complete a Disability Accommodation Request Form?
- When should I request Housing Accommodations for the following academic year?
- What factors are considered in reviewing a request for special housing?
- What on-campus housing accommodations does Rutgers provide?
- What if I am approved for accommodations but I want to live in a different building or on a different campus?
- What if I do not have a disability but I have other special housing requests?
- What if I sustain a temporary disability?
What is a disability?

The law states that a person with a “disability” is:

Someone with a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual; or a person with a record of such impairment; or a person who is regarded as having such an impairment.

How can I request special housing if I have a disability?

Rutgers University provides reasonable housing accommodations to students with documented disabilities. If you have a disability and want to request housing accommodations you must submit a completed Disability Accommodation Request Form (DARF) to the Coordinator for Student Support.

You can submit request forms via;

Fax c/o Jennifer Frost at 732-932-4377; or

USPS to Residence Life, ASB III
   c/o Jennifer Frost
   3 Rutgers Plaza
   Cook Campus
   New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Your application will be reviewed by the appropriate medical, psychological, and/or professional staff to approve your accommodations. Housing will determine an appropriate assignment based on these approvals and availability in housing vacancies.

Should I still register for Housing if I complete a Disability Accommodation Request Form?

Yes, all students must register for housing by the designated deadline, even if requesting accommodations.

Students who accept admission to Rutgers University can access the housing application through the Admissions’ Pathway to Enrollment.

When should I request Housing Accommodations for the following academic year?

New students to Rutgers should submit the Disability Accommodation Request Form (DARF) as soon as they apply for Housing in early Spring 2008. Students should aim to have completed their forms by June 1, 2008. However, the earlier requests are made,
the more options there are to accommodate student needs. For more information on requesting special housing, see the section on “How can I request special housing if I have a disability?”

What factors are considered in reviewing a request for special housing?

- Does the information submitted on the Housing Disabilities Accommodation Request Form (DARF) clearly demonstrate that the student is eligible for accommodations due to a “disability” as defined under applicable law?
- What is the relationship between the accommodations requested and the documented disability?
- What accommodations would effectively support the student’s experience in on-campus housing?

What on-campus housing accommodations does Rutgers provide?

Examples of accommodations Rutgers may provide:

- Modifying rooms, bathrooms, doors and common areas to accommodate students with mobility impairments
- Installing visual room alarms for fire alarms, phones, etc. for hearing impaired students
- Assigning students with psychiatric disabilities to appropriate living situations
- Permitting use of service dogs within residence halls / apartments
- Installing or permitting use of air purification devices

Examples of accommodation requests that Rutgers will generally NOT approve:

- Requests for single living accommodations by students with attention deficit / hyperactivity disorders
- Requests for single living accommodations by students with asthma or allergies

What if I am approved for accommodations but I want to live in a different building or on a different campus?

While campus preference is taken into consideration, it is only honored on a space available basis. All students can request a Room Change Request Form online at the Housing and Residence Life web site.

Please keep in mind that space is always limited, and finding another location that meets your accommodations may be difficult. Be sure to clarify your approved accommodations on your Room Change Request Form.
What if I do not have a disability but I have other special housing requests?

Students with non disability related requests must complete a Special Housing Request Form to the Coordinator for Student Support. Please do not complete the DARF form instead as this may delay your response.

You can submit request forms via;

Fax c/o Jennifer Frost at 732-932-4377; or

USPS to Residence Life, ASB III
c/o Jennifer Frost
3 Rutgers Plaza
Cook Campus
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

*Click Here to access the Special Housing Request form. Your application will be reviewed by the appropriate staff and an appropriate assignment will be made based on availability in housing vacancies.

What if I sustain a temporary disability?

Students can request accommodations at any time. Every effort will be made to accommodate approved requests based on the availability of available and appropriate space on campus. Complete the Disability Accommodation Request Form (DARF) and contact Residence Life at 732-932-4371 to discuss your options.

Please note: Students with temporary conditions may not be eligible for special housing unless the limitations on functioning are severe and the recovery time is expected to be particularly long.