



Reasonable Housing Accommodation Information

Office of Disability Services / Residence Life
2021-2022 Academic Year

COVID 19 Housing Accommodation Information

Due to the pandemic and ever-changing campus climate, housing placements are subject to change at any point in the semester. Disability Services and Residence Life commit to ensuring that your housing accommodation remains in place, however, if state and local guidelines require unexpected change the institution reserves the right to make adjustments as needed to protect the health and safety of you and other campus residents.

Informational Packet for Requesting Reasonable Housing Accommodations

In accordance with applicable federal, state, and local disability laws, Vanguard University will make every effort to provide reasonable housing accommodations for students who have a qualifying physical or psychological disability. Reasonable Housing Accommodations are provided for students living at Vanguard University campus. Only applications that represent a qualifying disability will be considered for housing accommodations. If the committee determines that your application does not reflect a disabling condition that requires a reasonable housing accommodation or you are not eligible for University housing, you will be referred back to the Housing Office.

When requesting a reasonable housing accommodation, applicants are expected to have already applied for Vanguard University Housing and have met all eligibility requirements and payment deadlines (for more information regarding Vanguard University Housing eligibility, see <http://www.vanguard.edu/studentlife/residence-life/>). Please pay close attention to the deadline dates indicated in the Vanguard University Housing materials (not provided in this packet), as well as the deadlines for submitting reasonable housing accommodation applications listed in this packet. All accommodations are determined on a case-by-case basis according to documented need and prevailing standards for reasonable accommodations. The Reasonable Housing Accommodation Committee reviews applications and approvals are sent to the Housing Office, which then offers assignments based on availability.

How to Apply for a Reasonable Housing Accommodation:

To be considered for a reasonable housing accommodation, you must complete Part I and Part III of the Request for Reasonable Housing Accommodation application and your healthcare provider must complete Part II. Completed applications should be returned to The Office of Disability Services. You can submit the application by emailing disabilityservices@vanguard.edu, or mailing it to:

Vanguard University
ATTN: The Office of Disability Services
55 Fair Dr.
Costa Mesa, CA 92626



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Information provided to The Office of Disability Services is kept confidential and will only be shared within the University as is necessary to evaluate the request.

How Applications Are Reviewed/How Students Are Informed of Reasonable Accommodation Decision:

Your Request for Reasonable Housing Accommodations Application, along with supporting documentation from your healthcare provider will be reviewed by a committee consisting of representatives from the Office of Disability Services, Health Center, Residence Life, and the Counseling Center, and other administrators having knowledge of the accommodation process. You will be notified of the Committee's decision via e-mail from The Office of Disability Services. The correspondence will include a decision regarding your eligibility for each housing accommodation requested. The Housing Office will notify you of your housing assignment according to the notification schedule detailed on their website. All questions regarding features or specifications of the housing assignment that is offered to you will go directly to the Housing Office. You may contact them housinginfo@vanguard.edu or 714-662-5275. The Office of Disability Services is unable to provide specific details regarding buildings and rooms.

If you have any questions about the process for requesting reasonable housing accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability services at 714-619-6550 or email disabilityservices@vanguard.edu.

Important Information about the Documentation Your Healthcare Provider Must Submit:

The University requires documentation from a licensed healthcare provider that describes the student's disability and supports the request for a reasonable housing accommodation. The licensed healthcare provider must fill out Part II of the Request for Reasonable Housing Accommodation application. The healthcare provider may also include a letter of additional support if they choose.

Documentation for a new request **must** be:

1. Recent (within the last year of applying for housing) and
2. Sufficient to establish a **direct link** between the underlying impairment and the requested housing accommodation.

Documentation for a renewal of accommodation request **must** be:

1. Within 3 years of renewal and
2. Sufficient to establish a **direct link** between the underlying impairment and the requested housing accommodation.

The following documents are **not** considered acceptable forms of documentation if submitted alone:

1. Handwritten patient records or notes from patient charts
2. Diagnoses on prescription pads
3. Self-evaluation found on the internet or in any print publication
4. Research articles
5. Original evaluation/diagnostic documents; submit **copies** of the original documents

Examples of Common Reasonable Housing Accommodation Requests that can be applied for:

- *Low Occupancy*

Low occupancy rooms are that are doubled (1 roommate). Roommate choice is not considered a reasonable accommodation.

- *Single Room*

Single rooms have a private sleeping and bathroom area. A request for a single room must clearly demonstrate how sharing a sleeping area adversely impacts your ability to live and perform successfully at Vanguard University. The request should include an explanation of how typical roommate adjustments (such as using headphones, using a sleeping mask, negotiating shared use of a space via a roommate contract) would not resolve the concern.

- *Lower Floor*

A lower floor room may be available if a student's medical needs warrant it.

- *Kitchenette*

A kitchenette may be an option for students with specific medical conditions that require meal preparations. A kitchenette has a living/sleeping area, private bathroom, and full kitchen. Roommate choice is not considered a reasonable accommodation.

- *Physical Modifications*

Students who may require physical modification of their living space must indicate their specific needs by the deadlines stated on the previous page. Examples of modifications may include wheelchair accessibility and modifications for hearing impaired students. It is important that you indicate such needs at the onset of your reasonable housing accommodation inquiry.

- *Furniture*

Vanguard University provides students with furniture that meets certain space and fire safety requirements. A student with a qualified disability who wishes to bring non-University furnishings related to his/her special need must submit the request to The Office of Disability Services. The student will be required to provide documentation that demonstrates a need for non-University furnishings.

- *Service Animal and/or Emotional Support Animal (ESA)*

If a service animal or emotional support animal is requested, the service animal/ESA request form must also be filled out and returned to the Disability Services Office. All animal and personal disability information must be current and show correlation.



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- *Air Conditioning*

Some residence halls do not have air conditioning units. If air conditioning is a critical accommodation for a student with a qualified disability, this must be reflected in the submitted documentation. Air conditioning units are provided by the student at the student's own expense.

- *Meal Plan Accommodation*

Vanguard University requires all on campus students living in the following halls to participate in the meal plan program: Laguna, Huntington, Catalina, Balboa and Newport Halls.

For more information on meal plan requirements, please see: <https://www.vanguard.edu/student-life/residence-life>

Students with disability-related dining needs may be eligible to be exempted from this requirement and placed in a kitchenette (please see kitchenette criteria) based on availability. Students with specific dining needs are encouraged to contact Bon Appétit regarding menu options: 714-966-6730 or through their website: <http://vanguard.cafebonappetit.com/>

Examples of Housing Accommodations that are not considered reasonable and may not be accommodated:

- *Roommate Requests*

Please be advised that roommates may be assigned to students with disabilities who are occupying modified rooms in the same manner as other residential students. A roommate request is not considered a reasonable accommodation and cannot be evaluated by the Special Accommodations Committee.

- *Specific Building Requests*

Please do not make building specific requests but instead request the accommodation needed (i.e., proximity to campus or building with a/c etc.) **A building-specific request is not considered a reasonable accommodation and cannot be evaluated by the Special Accommodations Committee.**

Buildings and Room Rates:

Please note that residents are subject to billing rates based on the building and type of room. Single rooms are higher in cost than most typical shared rooms on campus. Kitchen facilities, air conditioning and other amenities also affect room rates. Building location and room rates are available on the Residence Life website: (<http://www.vanguard.edu/studentlife/residence-life/>). All Department of Housing room rates apply to students with disabilities.



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INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENT: The student will complete Part I of this form. The student's healthcare provider will complete the Certification of Disability form, Part II. The student must sign the Authorization for Release of Information, Part III, and submit the completed application with all supporting documentation to the Office of Disability Services for review by the Reasonable Housing Accommodations Committee. All information provided is kept confidential under applicable laws and will only be shared with the necessary committee professionals to fully evaluate the request. This is a five-page application. Please make sure you return all pages.

Part I. REQUEST FOR REASONABLE HOUSING ACCOMMODATIONS

PLEASE NOTE: This process and all related disability documentation are specific to **housing accommodation requests only**. To request academic accommodations, you must complete the Disability Services registration process. Please e-mail disabilityservices@vanguard.edu for more information.

Name: _____ VU ID#: _____

Phone: _____ Student E-Mail: _____

Semester/Year for which accommodation *is requested*:

Current VU housing placement (if any): _____

Current Class Year: ___ Freshman ___ Sophomore ___ Junior ___ Senior ___ Transfer ___

Have you previously applied for disability housing accommodations at VU? ___ YES ___ NO

If yes, when? _____

If yes, please list any Housing/Meal accommodations that you have *previously received*:



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I am requesting the following housing accommodations: (Requested accommodation must be clearly linked to functional limitations. A specific building or roommate request is **not** considered a reasonable accommodation and will not be evaluated as such).

- ☐ Low Occupancy (1 roommate)
- ☐ Single Room
- ☐ Kitchenette/Meal Accommodation
- ☐ Air Conditioning/Climate controlled
- ☐ Lower Floor
- ☐ Service Animal/Emotional Support Animal (Additional Pet forms are needed)
- ☐ Physical Modifications/Wheelchair Accessible Unit (please specify what modifications you need, i.e. roll-in shower, grab bars, etc.):

Other: _____

Do you require evacuation assistance: _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, please describe your needs for evacuation assistance:

Please sign below, indicating that you have read the Informational Packet provided to you with this application

Name Date



Part II. CERTIFICATION OF DISABILITY

To the Student: This form must be filled out in its entirety by your medical provider or clinician. If this form is completed by anyone other than a qualified licensed professional, the information provided may not be used to support your accommodation request and the Office of Disability Services reserves the right to request additional documentation. Since a request for additional information can result in a delay in your request for accommodations, you are strongly urged to have the form completed by a qualified medical provider or clinician who will include all requested information.

To the Evaluator: The student named below has represented that s/he has a disability which will require a housing accommodation at Vanguard University. The information you provide will be used to determine the appropriateness of the requested accommodations. **Please take the time to complete this form and thoroughly.** You may fax us a copy, but our records must include an original with your signature. We cannot accept substitutions for this form but you may provide supplemental information on official letterhead. Please contact us with any questions. All information provided to us is confidential and will only be used towards housing accommodations. With the student's permission, we may contact you directly for additional information to assist us in making a determination.

Student Name: _____ VU ID# _____

Health Care Provider: Please respond to the following questions regarding the above-named student.

1. Please provide the diagnosis (DSM IV and/or the ICD-10 codes) for the condition(s) for which the housing accommodation is requested:

2. Please list date of onset and severity:



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3. How long have you been treating the individual?

4. When was the last visit you had with the individual?

5. Please list any *current functional issues and impact on activities* of daily living in residence halls:

6. What is the current treatment plan (including medications)?

7. Please provide the results and dates of any testing and/or evaluations used to determine diagnosis and past treatment and response.



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Healthcare Professional Name:

Professional Licensure: State _____
Number _____

Healthcare Professional Signature: _____ Date:

Office Address:

Office Phone: _____