

Disability Accommodations & Final Exam Explainer

Office of the Registrar
Seattle University School of Law
reviewed November 7, 2025

Before jumping into the specific information, please know that the Registrar's Office is committed to supporting students receiving disability accommodations. Disability accommodations are legally mandated modifications or services that give a student with a disability an equal opportunity to benefit from the educational process. Our office works to meet the stated accommodations that have been communicated to us and are limited in what we can provide beyond that. If there are ever any concerns day-of, you should feel empowered to contact our Registrar, Dean Underwood, or Associate Dean Fullner to discuss your concerns.

This is a two-page document.

General Information

Students should submit all necessary paperwork through the appropriate channel by the end of Week 10 of a semester to ensure testing accommodations are in place for final examinations. Submission does not equal approval and specific questions about the process should be directed to Alex Mentkowski, Disability Services Coordinator, at amentkowski@seattleu.edu.

Accommodated Exam Schedules will be communicated by the Exam Coordinator no later than 2 weeks before the start of the exams. Any exam conflicts will be resolved without need of a request form, unless personal conflicts exist that will require review by the Associate Dean.

As a general rule, no student will be expected to take exams on more than two days consecutively, consistent with the Final Examination Scheduling Conflict Resolution Rules detailed in the Student Handbook. Students should be prepared for the possibility of taking exams into the week following the examination period if accommodations and/or testing conflicts create scheduling challenges that would not otherwise fit within the scheduled Examination Period.

Room Type

Semi-Private – A semi-private testing area means that the testing environment is distraction-limited and allows the student to be among a small number of other students. Frequently, these rooms will have students taking different exams but with similar start/end times. Students in semi-private areas are likely to be receiving a variety of accommodations managed by exam staff. Some tools are provided or allowed to support a student's accommodation (such as testing shields or ear plugs).

Private – A low-distraction, private testing area means that the testing environment is for one student to complete an exam alone with no other students.

Timing

All students are permitted to take breaks as necessary during exams. However, students are expected to manage their own time while also upholding academic integrity standards. Timing accommodations are assumed to include any necessary breaks a student needs unless specific accommodations are necessary. If a student needs assistance managing those breaks, they should contact the Exam Coordinator and/or Disability Services Coordinator in advance of their exam.

Miscellaneous

Food/Drink – Consistent with students who do not receive accommodations, food and beverage is allowed in the testing area. Beverages should be in a closed top container and food should be eaten in the hallway unless accommodations are noted.

Fidget Devices – Students may have a fidget device at their testing location as long as the device does not make noise and will not otherwise be a distraction for fellow students.

Earplugs/Headphones – Consistent with students who do not receive accommodations, earplugs are welcome and encouraged. Earplugs are provided by the Registrar's Office, though personal earplugs are allowed. If earplugs could be confused for wireless headphones, speak with the Accommodations Proctor to confirm.

- Headphones – Defined by us as anything that can connect to another device to transmit audio. AirPods and Bluetooth devices fall into this category. Most noise-canceling devices also fall within this category. Specific accommodations are required with additional expectations communicated at the time of approval and prior to examinations.
- Ear Muffs – Defined by us as over-the-head devices that reduce noise and are similar to earplugs. Some earmuff-like devices are Bluetooth-capable and require accommodations as described above. Earmuff devices do not require an accommodation. Because many models could be confused for over-the-ear headphones, students interested in using these devices should check in with the Exam Coordinator (office located in C7 during exams), Accommodated Exam Proctor, or exam staff member before exams to receive a colored indicator. [Example Amazon Link](#)