

Georgetown University Dietary Accommodations Policy

Georgetown University is committed to supporting students' health and well-being through on-campus dining options that promote access to a variety of healthy, fresh, and nutritious foods that meet students' dietary needs. Georgetown requires all residential students to have a campus meal plan in order to support their on-campus living and learning success. Consistent access to a variety of nutritious foods is one of the foundations for successful learning and on-campus dining provides students with a source of community and shared experience.

The University can meet the vast majority of students' dining needs -- including disability-related or religious dietary requirements -- through its extensive [dining options](#), or through reasonable accommodations such as those described below. A reduction or exemption to the meal plan requirement for students living in University housing may be granted as a reasonable accommodation if the Dining Services program cannot meet the nutritional needs of the student through its extensive dining options, or through other reasonable accommodations.

Disability and Religious Dietary Accommodation Requests

Georgetown University is dedicated to ensuring that students with dietary concerns due to disabilities or religious dietary observance are accommodated appropriately.

Students are eligible for reasonable accommodations if they have a disability, meaning a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Depending on the circumstances, this may include conditions such as severe allergies, gluten intolerance, diabetes, gastrointestinal conditions, etc.). Qualified students with disabilities, or who observe religious diets, may be eligible for accommodations or modifications such as:

- Specialized menus or diets in on-campus dining facilities.
- Special housing accommodations (e.g. ability to use appliances in campus housing, housing with private kitchen, or housing located near a restroom).
- In some cases, if the Dining Services program cannot meet the nutritional needs of the student through its extensive dining options or through reasonable accommodations such as specialized menus or diets, students may be eligible for a University meal plan reduction or exemption.

Accommodation requests for the following reasons will not be considered: work/class/practice schedules, supplemental access to a kitchen, personal dietary preferences (e.g. voluntary vegan/vegetarian/gluten free diet). However, students are encouraged to review the [Hoya Eats website](#) to better understand the options available, and contact the Registered Dietician with additional questions about dining options at mealplans@georgetown.edu.

Disability-Related Dietary Accommodation Request Process:

1. **Application:** Georgetown's Academic Resource Center (ARC) is the primary contact for all disability-related accommodation requests. Students must initiate the accommodation request process by filling out and submitting the Dining Accommodation Request Form (and any requested documentation) on the ARC's Housing and Dining Accommodations page: <https://academicsupport.georgetown.edu/disability/accommodations/housing/>. Students can email the ARC at archousing@georgetown.edu if they have questions about the application.
 - a. Students requesting reasonable accommodation due to disability will be asked to provide: confirmation that they have read and reviewed the information about the extensive dining options available; details about their dietary needs including how those needs are related to a disability, how they meet their dietary needs currently, and what needs they believe are not being met by the available options; relevant medical documentation supporting their request; and electronic consent to sharing of documentation only as necessary for Georgetown and its dining services provider as appropriate to review the request and implement the requested accommodations. Medical documentation must explain the nature of the student's disability and why it necessitates dietary accommodations. The letter should be sufficiently detailed to allow the ARC to make an independent and individualized assessment of the student's needs. The medical care provider's area of specialty should align with the nature of the student's medical request.
2. **Review and Interactive Process:** The ARC will review the application and any materials submitted, and may determine whether the stated dietary needs can be accommodated through the University's dining program, or whether different/additional accommodations such as a housing accommodation or meal plan reduction/exemption may be appropriate.
 - a. As part of the standard interactive process for reviewing disability requests, the ARC may also, as appropriate, refer the student to meet with the Registered Dietitian to discuss whether Dining Services can meet the student's nutritional needs through its extensive dining options or through reasonable accommodations such as specialized menus or diets. In such cases, the Registered Dietician will provide the student -- and the ARC -- with a written summary of their assessment of whether and/or how the University's dining program can meet the student's needs.
3. **Final Decision:** The ARC will make the final determination as to whether a student's disability can be reasonably accommodated through the University's dining program, or whether different/additional accommodations such as a housing accommodation or meal plan reduction/exemption may be appropriate. This decision will be made based upon an individualized review of the case, which may include conversations with the student, any relevant documentation, and the guidance provided by the Registered Dietician.
4. **Appeal:** Appeals of accommodation decisions will be heard by the Meal Plan Review Committee, which will include representatives from University offices including ARC, Residential Living, and Dining Services. (Appeals of housing-related accommodations will be heard through the standard ARC appeals process).

Note Regarding Housing Accommodations: Dietary accommodation requests and accessible housing accommodation requests are separate processes. The ARC will review accessible housing requests that include dietary concerns (e.g. request for private kitchen due to allergies) and may route such requests first as appropriate to the Registered Dietician to discuss with the student whether/how the University's dining program can meet the student's dietary needs. This will later inform what, if any, accessible housing accommodations may be necessary. Receiving

a housing accommodation from the ARC does not guarantee that a meal plan accommodation from Dining Services will be granted, and vice versa.

Religious Dietary Accommodation Request Process:

1. **Application:** Residential Living is the primary contact for religious-related accommodation/dining requests. Students must initiate the accommodation request process by filling out and submitting the Dining Accommodation Request Form (and any requested documentation) [Residential Living's page](#). Email Residential Living at residentialliving@georgetown.edu for any questions about the process.
2. **Review and Interactive Process:** Residential Living will review the application and any materials submitted, and may determine whether the stated dietary needs can be accommodated through the University's dining program, or whether different/additional accommodations such as a housing accommodation or meal plan reduction/exemption may be appropriate.
 - a. As part of the standard interactive process for reviewing disability requests, Residential Living may also, as appropriate, refer the student to meet with the Registered Dietitian to discuss whether Dining Services can meet the student's nutritional needs through its extensive dining options or through reasonable accommodations such as specialized menus or diets. In such cases, the Registered Dietician will provide the student -- and Residential Living -- with a written summary of their assessment of whether and/or how the University's dining program can meet the student's needs.
3. **Final Decision:** Residential Living will make the final determination as to whether a student's dietary needs can be reasonably accommodated through the University's dining program, or whether different/additional accommodations such as a housing accommodation or meal plan reduction/exemption may be appropriate. This decision will be made based upon an individualized review of the case, which may include conversations with the student, any relevant documentation, and the guidance provided by the Registered Dietician.
4. **Appeals:** Appeals of accommodation decisions will be heard by the Meal Plan Review Committee, which will include representatives from University offices including ARC, Residential Living, and Dining Services. (Appeals of housing-related accommodations will be heard through the standard ARC appeals process).

Returning Students: Returning students will need to complete an abbreviated accommodations form each year, confirming their accommodation remains appropriate, but they need not engage in the full interactive process unless the student's needs have changed.

Grievances:

Students are encouraged to resolve any disagreements as to appropriate accommodations either through informal communication with the Academic Resource Center / Residential Living, or through the appeals process provided above.

Students may also bring grievances to Georgetown University's Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity, and Affirmative Action ("IDEAA"), which reviews and investigates alleged violations of the University's Non-Discrimination in Education Policy, including allegations of unlawful discrimination on the basis of disability or religion. More information about IDEAA's grievance

process can be found at: <http://ideaa.georgetown.edu/>.

The following person has been designated to coordinate Georgetown University's compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973:

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