

Temporary Medical Conditions: Injuries, Surgeries, or Illnesses

Temporary medical conditions such as injuries, surgeries, or acute illnesses do not qualify as disabilities and are not covered under federal disability laws. The resources of Disability Services are limited to serving students with permanent disabilities. However, CU staff and faculty know these situations often impact students' ability to attend classes and complete work effectively. Below are strategies and resources for finding needed support during a difficult time.

Proof of Temporary Medical Condition

Obtain a dated letter from your medical provider/trainer describing your condition, including the duration and limitations of your condition. Distribute these to your instructors and to campus staff (e.g., academic advisor, Registrar, Residence Life, etc.) as needed.

Contact Your Instructors

Instructors are your most important allies. Keep them informed of difficulties you are facing and be proactive by suggesting possible solutions. (e.g., making up missed work, the need for note takers, additional time or scribes for exams, getting to class on time, seating, extra space to store crutches). Decisions regarding your temporary needs are at the discretion of your professors and teaching assistants.

Attendance

You may need to reduce your course load and/or allow additional time in your schedule for schoolwork and rehabilitation. Talk with your instructors immediately to reach an agreement regarding classes and assignments you are going to miss or have already missed. This includes making up missed exams and quizzes and time extensions on assignments. There may be other sections of the same class that you can attend in lieu of the one in which you are registered.

If your condition has caused you to miss a major part of the semester, it may be necessary to withdraw or to request an incomplete. Discuss this with your professors and advisors. Contact the [Office of Registrar](#) for information about withdrawing from classes.

Class Notes

Ask a student in your class to take notes for you or ask your instructors to help you recruit a student to do this. Ask your note taker to email you the notes or provide you with a photocopy. Another option is to consider recording class lectures using a digital recorder, pen, or software (e.g., Livescribe Pen, One Note, etc.).

Producing Written or Typed Assignments

Check with your professor if it is allowable to have a friend or family member to write or type for you. You may also consider speech-to-text software programs. These allow you to speak into the computer through a microphone and the software then converts your speech into written text. Free versions are available to download or you may purchase software (e.g., Dragon NaturallySpeaking, Mac Speech Dictate, etc.).

Exams

Exams may present special challenge for those with temporary conditions. With advance notice, the strategies listed below might be acceptable alternatives to suggest to your professors and/or teaching assistants:

- Instead of using a scantron, mark answers selections directly on exam.
- Instead of handwriting an essay, use a laptop.
- For lab related experiments or “hands on” exams, orally describe what you would do, why you would do it, what you observe, etc.
- If you think you may need extra time to complete an exam, let your professor/teaching assistant know in advance.
- Take breaks during the exam.
- Orally record your answers.
- Use a scribe (provided by your professor/ teaching assistant).

If your professor or teaching assistant is unable to accommodate you with additional time or a scribe for your exam, contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 to schedule an appointment with a specialist to discuss your options. The appointment will take approximately 15-20 minutes and you must bring medical documentation to your appointment.

Getting Around Campus

A campus map with detailed wayfinding directions is available under Campus Access Resources at Disability Services website.

Campus Accessibility

The Facilities Management provides information on accessible entrances, restrooms, and elevators on campus.

Wheelchair and Scooter Rentals

Disability Services is not responsible for providing wheelchair or scooter but listed below is contact information on wheelchair and scooter rentals.

A Solutions Medical 5809 W. 38 th Wheat Ridge, CO (303) 432-2230	Apria Healthcare 385 S. Pierce Ave. Louisville, CO (303) 604-2249	Aspen Medical Supply 250 E. Dry Creek Rd, #114 Littleton, CO (720) 322-0101
123DME, LLC 9122 W. Ken Caryl Ave. Littleton, CO 80128 (303) 630-9606	Scootaround Mobility (888) 441-7575	Boulder American Legion (303) 442-9551

Parking and Transportation Services

Parking and Transportation Services provides information about parking and transportation services around and on campus. There is no building-to-building shuttle service on campus.

For accessible parking, you must have a state-issued accessible license plate, permit, decal, or place card. Temporary injury usually does not qualify for accessible parking. You may want to purchase a temporary permit to park near the building where you need to go.

The CU [Parents Association](#) has provided taxi vouchers for emergency use. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at dsinfo@colorado.edu.

Boulder community transportation resources include:

[Special Transit](#) 303-447-2848

This private, not-for-profit organization provides door-through-door, wheelchair accessible transportation to individuals who cannot access other transit alternatives.

Also, Special Transit has an “[Easy Rider](#)” program that shows people with mobility limitations how to use public transportation, such as RTD buses.

[Yellow Cab](#) 303-777-7777

[RTD](#) 303-299-6000