


STADIO



POLICY FOR ATTENDING TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES¹

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¹ This Policy must be read together with the Guidelines Document, attached herewith.

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 STADIO subscribes to the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and believes that students with disabilities are entitled to access to higher education. The purpose of this policy is specifically to give effect to the needs of students with disabilities.
- 1.2 STADIO recognises that students with disabilities have different but equally valued learning needs. STADIO is committed to providing such access and where practicable, assisting students with disabilities to ensure that they have an equal chance of success.
- 1.3 STADIO will ensure that where services are provided for students with disabilities, they will, insofar as is reasonably possible, provide services equal to those presented for non-disabled students.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1 STADIO is committed in its support of students with disabilities; however, commitments shall be progressively realised based on national imperatives, equality, need, institutional resources, facilities, infrastructure and a consideration of any other relevant condition.
- 2.2 The objectives and conditions that underpin STADIO's commitment to students with disabilities is set out below:
 - 2.2.1 To support disability regardless of whether it is temporary or permanent, insofar as is reasonably possible for the Institution.
 - 2.2.2 To safeguard the fair treatment of students with substantially limiting disabilities.
 - 2.2.3 To guarantee that conditions, resources and facilities permitting, students with disabilities will be admitted to study applying the same criteria as for other students.
 - 2.2.4 To take reasonable steps to ensure that administrative, teaching and support staff understand and are committed to the needs of students with disabilities.
- 3.5 To ensure that students with disabilities who have been registered have reasonable access to programmes at the institution in terms of facilities, learning materials, tuition and support, and/or assessments through a common curriculum framework.

3. DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

C4SS	Centres for Student Success will be established on each of the STADIO Campuses with the purpose of providing support to students in respect of their academic, health, wellness, and developmental needs.
Disability	<p>Is defined as the loss or elimination of opportunities to take part in the life of the community, equitably with others, encountered by persons having physical, sensory, psychological, developmental, learning, neurological, or other impairments, which may be permanent, temporary or episodic in nature, thereby causing activity limitations and participation restrictions within mainstream society.</p> <p>Disability will also include students using assistive technology to support them address the impairments identified above.</p>
SSSC	Student Support and Success Committee, which is a sub-committee of Senate.
Substantially limiting disabilities	An impairment is regarded as substantially limiting if, in the absence of reasonable accommodation by STADIO, a person would be either totally unable to study or would be significantly limited in his/her study process. An assessment of whether the effects of impairment are substantially limiting must be considered by the Faculty Academic Committee (AC) and confirmed by the Head of the Faculty.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

- 4.1 All students must be provided with the necessary information to enable them to make an informed choice in terms of career and programme, including the facilities at the Institution available for students with disabilities, as well as the process to be followed by students with disabilities when applying to the institution for a place.
- 4.2 It is the responsibility of the Registrar to ensure that the commitments in respect of institutional information and administrative support are provided to students with disabilities, including informing the relevant Faculty Head once a student with a disability has been registered

5. TUITION AND LEARNING

- 5.1 Students with disabilities who have been registered will reasonably be provided with accessible teaching and learning materials and support suited to the nature of the disability.
- 5.2 The needs of students with disabilities will, wherever practicable, be accommodated as regards formative and summative assessments. This may include, among others, the production of question papers in different formats for separate administration, and the administration of oral examinations, where appropriate.
- 5.3 It is the responsibility of the Head of the Faculty to ensure that tuition and student support are adapted according to the needs of the students with disabilities registered in the Faculty.

6. INFRASTRUCTURE, INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND BARRIER-FREE ACCESS

- 6.1 The physical infrastructure of Campuses and sites of delivery (including buildings, facilities and grounds) will be developed insofar as is practicable to promote the independence of students with disabilities. In the design and re-design of new campuses, the principles of universal design will be considered in order to respond to the needs of persons with disabilities, e.g. ramps, handrails, visual signs, wide walkways and hip-level switches.
- 6.2 The Centres for Student Success (C4SS) will advise the Institution on a regular basis regarding leading practices to accommodate the needs of students with disabilities.
- 6.3 In line with the provisions of the *Bursary and Merit Award Policy*, STADIO will promote financial access and support for students with disabilities, especially poor and rural students with disabilities.



7. CO-OPERATIVE AND STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIPS

7.1 STADIO will collaborate with organisations that deal specifically with the empowerment of students with disabilities to:

7.1.1 advise on improvements and support for students with disabilities; and

7.1.2 promote a culture of sensitivity, awareness, understanding, and inclusivity amongst all staff and students.

8. MONITORING AND REPORTING

8.1 Each Faculty will report to the Senate Student Success and Support Committee (SSSC) twice annually on the success and progress of students with disability registered in the Faculty.

8.2 The SSSC will report to Senate in the first quarter annually on students with disabilities registered with STADIO covering (a) the previous year; and (b) new registrations for the current year.

ANNEXURE A

A.1 GUIDELINES FOR DEALING WITH STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION

1. Students applying to register with STADIO will be required to indicate:
 - (i) the existence of a disability,
 - (ii) the nature of the disability, and
 - (iii) the additional need and support that will be required.

2. Should a student declare his/her disability status on the Application Form, the application must immediately be referred to the Registrar's Office (or delegated authority) to assess whether the student may be accommodated.

3. The Registrar's Office (or delegated authority) must confirm resources and services available before a student's application is approved.

REGISTRATION

1. Prior to registration, a student applying for a concession as a result of an impairment/disability, must make an appointment with the responsible academic administrator to schedule an interview and to provide the evidence for the granting of a concession.

2. The prospective student will be subject to a fair process in order to establish the nature of the impairment/disability, the level of support required, the availability of support, and the appropriate programme that would benefit the student most.

3. A report outlining a suitable arrangement will be forwarded to the Head of the Faculty for approval. Once approved, the student will receive notification in writing of any concession that is granted.

4. The Head of Faculty will communicate with the relevant Head of School and/or lecturing staff to ensure that arrangements are made for the student to be accommodated in the registered programme.
5. Recommendations for lecture venue adaptation and teaching differentiation techniques will be suggested to the Head of the Campus and academic staff respectively by the C4SS on the Campus.
6. Extra time and the use of a computer including text-to-sound technology may be allowed in the assessment situation, as well as other appropriate identified support mechanisms.
7. Students will be tracked throughout the system and encouraged to visit the C4SS for support, when required.
8. Students will be referred to the C4SS for extra tutoring, should this be required.
9. The C4SS will also be involved in staff education around disability issues in order to promote an attitude of acceptance, tolerance, non-discrimination, social justice and acknowledging the human dignity of every person.

