

Memory Aid Note Card Accommodation

A memory aid, such as a note card, is a testing accommodation used to support those who have documented disabilities impacting memory. It is a tool used to trigger information that a student has studied but may have difficulty recalling due to cognitive processing disabilities and disabilities associated with memory and recall.

Disabilities that may affect memory include (but not limited to)-

- Acquired Brain Injury
- Psychiatric Disability
- Specific Learning Disability
- ADD/ADHD
- Other Medical Conditions and Medications

The note card allows Students to demonstrate knowledge of the course material by helping prompt their memory, not by providing the answer. It gives students an equal opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of the course material on a quiz or exam without taxing already compromised memory function.

This accommodation is not intended to reduce academic requirement or alter the standards by which academic performance is assessed.

A note card accommodation will not be very useful to the student unless they have studied and understand how to use or engage with the information it refers to. If they don't already understand the course material, a proper note card/cue card will not help.

Note card accommodation-

This student would be best served using a note card during exams and quizzes. It is up to the instructor to determine the size of note card. Note cards should be procedural in content, not factual. It is the student's responsibility to meet with instructors and provide the cards at least two days before the test. Instructors may ask to view and approve the content before exam dates and initial the card with their approval. Please include that you have approved the note cards on your exam instructions to the DSS office. It is recommended that the student and instructor discuss this accommodation together in advance of exams.

Note Card Policy-

1. Students are responsible for meeting with professors at the beginning of the each quarter to review accommodations.
2. Students are responsible for learning course material, for discerning which material may require cues or triggers, and for developing the cues that will appear on the note card.
3. Students are responsible for securing the instructor's approval, if and when the instructor request to review or approve the note cards.
4. Students will need to meet with the professor if the professor decides to create the cards with the student.
5. If the professor decides not to review the note cards, they trust the student to develop cues that will trigger memory and accommodate their disability.

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Note/Cue Cards should not:

- Include copied pages from text books
- Include class notes, lecture notes, or slides
- Serves as a substitute for studying the material
- Include open textbooks
- Include answer sheets from practice or previous exams
- Contain full and complete synopsis of course material

The contents of the note cards are at the instructor's discretion and are NOT intended to fundamentally alter or reduce the essential requirements of the course. Therefore, the instructor may wish to determine what is allowed or not allowed through private conversation with student.

As stated above, the note card should not contain full synopsis of course material, but rather mnemonics, such as a pattern of letters, ideas or associations that assist in recalling information. This may also include formulas that would enable to the student to solve a problem. For example, some instructors have approved math formulas on a note card with a requirement that the formula is not written out to contain a fully solved problem.

If the purpose of a test is to determine whether or not the student knows specific definitions, having those words or definitions on a card would make it an answer sheet and therefore, possible not acceptable (determined by the professor). If the definition were shortened but not connected to specific terms, this may be allowable; it will trigger the student's memory of the correct term.

When instructors review note card contents with a student, it is recommended to consider the learning objectives or course outcomes for the class. A note card accommodation provides access to a student with disabilities impacting memory in order to meet these outcomes. It is at the instructor's discretion to provide feedback and instructions about what can be allowed on the note card.