Procedures Summary

Functions occurring at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi facilities need to serve all eligible participants including those with disabilities. In accordance with Title II, Public Entities, of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the university must protect individuals with disabilities from discrimination on the basis of disability in services, programs or activities. In accordance with Title III, Public Accommodations, discrimination is prohibited on the basis of disability by public accommodations and requires places of public accommodation to be designed, constructed and altered in compliance with current accessibility standards.

Definitions

The ADA defines an individual with a disability as a person who (1) has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, (2) has a record of such impairment, or (3) is regarded (deemed, labeled, and/or treated) as having such impairment.

Procedure

1. General guidelines for requesting accommodation

   1.1. As described in university procedure 41.01.01.C0.01, Use of University Facilities, scheduling of university facilities is decentralized. Different administrative units across campus have responsibilities for event planning and management. It is necessary to request accommodations ahead of time to ensure that there is adequate time to review the request and determine each request on a case-by-case basis. Advanced notice of 14 business days is required. It will help ensure that there is adequate time to review each request and make appropriate arrangements.

   1.2. The university is responsible for ensuring that new construction, renovations, and alterations to existing structures conform to campus standards and applicable State of Texas laws regarding engineering, architecture, accessibility, fire, and life safety and the ADA Accessible Guidelines.
1.3. Included in the inventory of university facilities are structures constructed prior to the ADA. In some instances, variances on compliance have been received for those facilities.

1.4. Event organizers are responsible for providing accommodations for participants at their event, including the public. The event organizer may contact Disability Services at 361-825-5816 for guidance and information on providing accommodations. Request for accommodations cannot be denied by event organizers without prior coordination with the Office of Employee Development and Compliance Services.

Special events and activities frequently include arrangement of tables and chairs in specified configurations. The event planning process should include consideration of how people with disabilities will access seating, pathways and activities. Event hosts need to be aware of potential attendees with mobility, sight, and hearing disabilities to ensure continued access to programs and services.

1.5. If the seating capacity in the assembly area is 50 or less, the minimum number of required receivers is two (2) and the minimum number of receivers required to be hearing-aid compatible is two (2). The same requirements apply for a seating capacity up to 200 people, except that the minimum number of required receivers will be one (1) per 25 seats over 50 seats.

1.6. Disability Services arranges sign language interpreters for academic support or university functions for students and prospective students (Island Days, Orientations) and serves as the initial point of contact for accommodations at functions open to the community (Distinguished Speaker Series, Culture Fest). All requests must be made with the Disability Services office, during business hours, at least 14 business days in advance. Disability Services will coordinate with the sponsoring university group on accommodation requests for community functions. For community functions, the sponsoring university group must provide an interpreter and is responsible for identifying and scheduling interpreters and the costs incurred for these services. Disabilities Services and the Employee Development & Compliance Services offices can assist in identifying resources for non-student-related events/activities.

1.7. For events and activities in university facilities, a statement about accommodations should be included in the marketing materials.

1.8. Accessible parking spaces are distributed across university parking lots and the parking garage. The University Police Department oversees parking and traffic regulations. The regulations may be found at the following website: http://police.tamu.edu/park/parkingRegulations.html. Visitors to campus are required to use the parking garage. Arrangements for exceptions may be made directly with the University Police Department at (361) 825-7275.
1.9. Corpus Christi RTA (CCRTA) bus stops for fixed routes are located at the university’s Island Campus on Ocean Drive and at the Momentum Campus on Islander Way. CCRTA buses are accessible and equipped with ramps or wheelchair lifts, buses kneed to sidewalks, and seating areas at the front of buses are reserved for people with disabilities and older adults requiring assistance with boarding and exiting buses. Wheelchair securement areas are also located at the front of buses. The CCRTA offers B-Line Paratransit Service to people whose disabilities prevent them from using regular accessible fixed-route service. Additional covered bus stops for B-Line Paratransit Services are located behind Bell Library and near Center for the Arts. For information and arrangements, contact B-Line Paratransit Services directly at (361) 289-5881. All university students, employees, and contractors with a valid SandDollars ID card may ride all fixed routes free of charge.

1.10. Emergency Evacuation. In the event of fire or other emergency requiring building evacuation, elevators are not usually permissible for use. Emergency notification systems in the buildings include automated audible alarms, voice instruction, and a strobe light indicating immediate evacuation is required through the nearest exit. Those unable to use the stairways should go to the nearest campus phone and call the University Police Department at x4444 or at (361) 825-4444 from a cell phone. They should describe the type of assistance needed and their location. They will receive further instructions. In each multi-storied academic, auxiliary and administration building, an Evac-U-Trac is available to assist in transporting a person with physical disabilities to safety. The complete listing of buildings and locations with Evac-U-Trac can be found on the Environmental, Health and Safety website at http://safety.tamucc.edu/uploads/Site/Location%20Evac-U-Trac.pdf.

1.11. Elevators present in university facilities are maintained by an elevator contractor. In the event occupants are trapped in an elevator, the occupants can contact help via a call button in the elevator, and assistance will be dispatched.

1.12. For inquiries or special requests, event organizers should contact the following offices:

- Registrar’s Office - Academic Buildings – (361) 825-2276
- Intercollegiate Athletics – Field House, Dugan Family Soccer and Track Stadium, Chapman Field, Thomas J. Henry Tennis Center - (361) 825-5541
- Performing Arts Center – (361) 825-2787
- Recreational Sports - Dugan Wellness Center, Momentum Multipurpose Fields, Outdoor Pool – (361) 825-2454
- University Center and Student Activities - University Center, non-sport outdoor areas – (361) 825-5202
- Environmental Health & Safety – (361) 825-5555
- University Police Department – (361) 825-4242
- Disability Services – (361) 825-5816
2. Reporting Complaints

University employees, students, and the public may file a complaint with the Employee Development & Compliance Services, ADA Coordinator Office at (361) 825-5826 or http://www.tamucc.edu/marcom/complaints/compendium.html.

3. Training/Education/Information

Training and Education will be routinely provided to departments/staff hosting events on a recurring basis.

4. Monitoring/Compliance Review

Employee Development & Compliance Services will monitor the implementation of this procedure on an annual basis.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

System Regulation 08.01.02, Civil Rights Protections for Individuals with Disabilities
University Rule 08.01.01.C1, Civil Rights Compliance
University Procedure 08.01.02.C0.01, Employee/Applicant Requests for Reasonable Accommodations Under the ADA
University Procedure 08.01.02.C0.03, Service and Emotional Support Animals
University Procedure 41.01.01.C0.01, Use of University Facilities

This procedure supersedes:
- 41.01.99.C1.03, Accommodations at University Facilities and Events

Contact Office

Contact for clarification and interpretation: Employee Development and Compliance Services, ADA Coordinator
(361) 825-2765