

## Students with Disabilities Policy

### **1. Policy Title - Students with Disabilities Policy**

### **2. Policy Number - DU-AC-012-V1**

### **3. Effective Date – Fall 2022-23**

### **4. Next Review Date - 2025-26**

### **5. Purpose and Need**

As specified in its Strategic Plan (SP) 2021-31, DU aspires to be a leading university for higher education of students with disabilities in the Sultanate of Oman. (Refer DU SP Objective 7.11). Also, the enrolment of students with disabilities at DU is increasing and the need for a policy to unify the practices is vital. This policy aims to ensure that the rights of students with disabilities are protected and the services provided for them are adequate and appropriate.

### **6. Scope of Application**

This policy applies to all students with disabilities enrolled at DU and also the faculty and staff dealing with them.

### **7. Policy Statement**

Provide the needed academic and non-academic support for the students with disabilities. Ensure that these students receive fair treatment and adequate support. Regularly monitor, review and improve the services provided to students with disabilities.

#### **Definition**

“The term persons with disabilities is used to apply to all persons with disabilities including those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various attitudinal and environmental barriers, hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.” (Source - The United Nations)

### **8. Procedures**

- 8.1. DU admits students with disabilities who meet the admission criteria for different academic programs.
- 8.2. Students with disabilities are expected to disclose their disability to DARSA during admission process so that they can be included in the services provided by Students with Disabilities Unit (SWDU).

- 8.3. DARSA specifies the type of disability (Sensory, physical) in DU SIS and notifies SWDU.
- 8.4. SWDU sends a letter of accommodation to the academic advisor of each student with disability.
- 8.5. SWDU provides assistance to students with disabilities in a form of: scribes, equipment, assistants, sign language interpreters...etc.
- 8.6. SWDU in coordination with the advisors and the concerned Deanships and Departments will ensure that resources related to teaching and learning are adjusted to meet the needs of students with disabilities.
- 8.7. Students with disabilities are eligible for 25% extra time during exams. Severe disabilities will be evaluated on a one-to-one basis and more time can be given to them.
- 8.8. Course instructors in consultation with SWDU will evaluate each case and agree on the compensatory time to be given during written exams and continuous assessment. The arrangement will be communicated to the student at the beginning of the semester.
- 8.9. Academic advisors meet with students with disabilities regularly to discuss their needs.
- 8.10. Technical affairs will ensure that all DU buildings are accessible for students with disabilities with necessary facilities.
- 8.11. Students with disabilities information will be treated with confidentiality and respect. It will be shared within the university only on the need-to-know basis. Disability-related information needs to be treated as a medical information.

## **9. Guidelines**

- 9.1. SWDU and DARSA shall organize orientation for students with disabilities in coordination with the concerned academic departments every semester.
- 9.2. SWDU in coordination with CTL organizes training sessions for faculty on methods and techniques of teaching students with disabilities.
- 9.3. SWDU in coordination with Deanships and FP will organize inclusivity activities for DU community members.
- 9.4. SWDU shall build a pool of student volunteers to support students with disabilities.

- 9.5. SWDU shall Establish fruitful partnerships with public and private sector organisations to support SWD
- 9.6. SWDU organizes extra-curricular activities for students with disabilities through students' clubs for each disability group.
- 9.7. DARSA and SWDU will maintain records of students with disabilities and update it regularly.
- 9.8. The departments should have make-up plans in place for the missed classes and assessments of students with disabilities.
- 9.9. Students with disabilities are eligible for free textbooks.
- 9.10. Academic support to students with disabilities will be provided both in the form of one-to-one academic coaching and group academic coaching.
- 9.11. SWDU will establish collaborations with national and international organizations in the field.
- 9.12. SWDU will conduct a satisfaction survey about the services provided to students with disabilities. The results on the survey will be analyzed and communicated to the concerned departments for further improvement.

## **10. Custodian**

Students with Disabilities Unit

## **11. Responsibility for implementation**

College Deans, FP Director and Dean DARSA,

## **12. Contact Person for answering queries**

Head of Students with Disabilities Unit

## **13. Key Stakeholders consulted**

DVC, College Deans, FP Director, Dean DARSA, QA Director, QA Consultant  
DU staff and students

## **14. Approval details**

### **14.1. Approval by University Council**

UC Meeting number: EO 02/ 2021-2022

Meeting date: 02-06-2022

### **14.1. Approval by Board of Trustees (If required)**

Not Required