



Testing Modifications for Foreign Students

- A. Overview and Purpose:** To help promote a racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse academic environment, Stetson University College of Law encourages applicants from other countries for all of its degree programs. Because virtually all courses at the College of Law are taught in English, all admitted students are expected to be proficient in the English language. However, certain testing modifications are available to qualified foreign students to assist them in adjusting to the rigors of law study in the United States. A testing modification for foreign students is not considered a disability accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act in accordance with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504, as amended).
- B. Eligibility:** The ADA Coordinator may grant a testing modification, within his or her discretion, to a foreign law student who has difficulties with the English language. In usual cases, to receive the testing modification a foreign student cannot --
- a. be a native speaker of the English language;
 - b. have lived in an English-speaking country for five years or more, whether consecutive or not;
 - c. have attended an English-language high school or university for at least one academic year; or
 - d. have earned a degree with a major in the English language at a university.

Although the ADA Coordinator may grant a testing modification to a foreign law student who does not meet the eligibility requirements, exceptions will be granted only in extraordinary circumstances. In making these determinations, the ADA Coordinator may consult with individuals within or outside Stetson University who specialize in linguistics or other fields.

- C. Testing Modifications:** The typical testing modification for an eligible foreign student is as follows:
- First fall, spring, and summer: 50% additional time, plus the use of a paper, non-legal dictionary
 - Remaining semesters: no testing modification

The ADA Coordinator may adjust the testing modification based on individual circumstances; usually, if the testing modification is adjusted, it will be to provide less time, not more.

Procedure for Seeking the Testing Modification: A student seeking a testing modification under this policy should complete the form “Request for Testing Modification(s) for a Foreign Student” and submit it to the ADA Coordinator no later than the examination accommodations deadline set on the academic calendar. The student must submit this form each semester so that the College of Law can accurately track and plan for students with testing modifications.

Faculty policy revised on April 8, 2009. Effective as of August 1, 2009. Amended September 4, 2015.