

FAQs for Prospective Students with Medical and/or Mental Health Needs

This FAQ document addresses common questions from prospective students and their families regarding the resources and guidelines for students with medical and/or mental health needs. It is intended to provide clarity about what the College offers and set realistic expectations for support.

FERPA and Privacy

What is FERPA, and how does it work? FERPA stands for the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. It protects the privacy of student education records. The College cannot share information about a student with anyone, including parents, unless the student has signed a FERPA waiver. If a student has signed a waiver, designated individuals can contact the College for information. A waiver does not require the College to proactively share information; the responsibility lies with the designee to make inquiries. The Registrar's Office oversees FERPA waivers. Students can revoke a FERPA waiver at any time by submitting a written request to the Registrar's Office.

Medication Administration

Can a staff or faculty member administer my medication? No, staff and faculty members are not permitted to administer medication as medication administration falls outside of the scope of their respective roles. Students are expected to be self-sufficient in managing their medications. The Wellness Center can provide resources to help students develop independent medication management routines.

Can my roommate administer my medication or remind me to take it? The College strongly advises against placing the responsibility of medication administration or reminders on roommates or student Resident Assistants. Students are encouraged to use apps or other tools to help manage medication schedules independently.

Mental Health and Emotional Support

Can my emotional support animal (ESA) go with me to class or inside other buildings? Emotional support animals are only permitted in a student's designated residence hall room and on outdoor campus grounds. Service animals, as defined by the ADA, may accompany students in residence halls and campus buildings. All animals must be on a leash when outside of a residence hall room.

Does the College offer after-hours mental health support? Yes, the College provides access to telehealth/online services for after-hours mental health emergencies. Students can contact the Wellness Center during business hours for more information about these services.

Accessibility and Accommodations

What is the process for requesting accommodations at the College? To request accommodations, students must submit documentation to the Accessibility Resources Office and schedule a meeting to develop an individualized accommodation plan. Please submit this information immediately upon being accepted in order to avoid delays in services. For more information, contact the Accessibility Resources Office or refer to the website.

Can I submit my high school IEP to the Accessibility Resources Office to obtain accommodations at the College? While a high school Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan provides helpful context, it is not sufficient for obtaining accommodations. The College requires comprehensive and

current documentation, including a psychological evaluation conducted within the last three years. This evaluation must include detailed assessments of aptitude, achievement, and information processing provided by a qualified professional. For detailed guidelines, please visit the Accessibility Resources Office website.

Emergency Medical and Psychological Responses

Can the Wellness Center staff tend to emergencies outside of the center? The Wellness Center (WC) staff provides medical and psychological care within the confines of the center due to accreditation requirements and health and safety practices. They cannot respond to emergencies outside the center. In emergencies, students should contact the University Police Department (UPD) by dialing 518.255.5555 or 911.

What is the role of UPD during a medical or mental health emergency? UPD serves as the first responder for all medical and mental health emergencies on campus. Officers are trained in de-escalation techniques and can connect students with telehealth services, next-day follow-up care, or arrange emergency transport to a hospital if needed. UPD works with dignity and sensitivity to ensure student safety.

Tell me about the local ambulance system. How quickly can an ambulance get to campus? The College is located in a rural area with limited ambulance staffing. Ambulance response times may vary, with potential waits of 30 minutes or more depending on demands occurring in the county. UPD officers provide immediate assistance until an ambulance arrives. The nearest level III hospital, Cobleskill Regional Hospital, is a few miles from campus, while a level I trauma center is 45 minutes away at Albany Medical Center.

Does the College have an EMT team on campus? No, the College does not have an on-campus EMT response team. For emergencies, UPD will coordinate with local ambulance services.

What happens if I lose consciousness on campus? Faculty and staff are trained to contact UPD immediately if a medical emergency occurs – not calling is not an option. UPD will assess the situation and coordinate care. Students with specific needs are encouraged to discuss their condition with the Accessibility Resources Office to determine accommodations and to work with the Wellness Center.

Additional Resources

- Accessibility Resources Office: [\[Link\]](#)
- FERPA Information and Form: [\[Link\]](#)
- Residence Life: [\[Link\]](#)
- University Police (UPD): [\[Link\]](#)
- Wellness Center: [\[Link\]](#)