

**Mount Vernon Nazarene University**  
**Housing Disability Accommodation Guidelines**

**Purpose and Guiding Principles**

Mount Vernon Nazarene University (MVNU) is committed to providing access to its residential living program for students with disabilities, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and related federal guidance. Housing accommodations are intended to remove disability-related barriers to access—not to address preferences or guarantee ideal living conditions.

Housing accommodations are evaluated on a case-by-case basis through an interactive process involving Accessibility Services, Residence Life, and the Housing Committee. Decisions are based on professional documentation, clinical history, and the functional impact of a student's disability within the residential environment. Final determinations are made by a Review Committee, under the leadership of Accessibility Services.

**Single Room as a Disability Accommodation**

One of the most commonly requested housing accommodations at MVNU is a single room. A single room may be approved as a disability accommodation only when medical documentation from a qualified provider demonstrates that a student's disability substantially limits their ability to access and utilize the standard housing environment and that a separate living or sleeping space is necessary to remove that barrier and there are no other reasonable alternative accommodations.

- Examples of access-based needs include:
  - The need for additional space to operate specialized medical equipment
  - The need for an accessible bathroom or configuration only available in a single room
  - When a single room is approved as a disability accommodation, the student is billed at the standard shared-room (double) rate.
  
- ADHD, Anxiety Disorders, and Depression are common diagnoses among college students. While these diagnoses alone do not automatically indicate a need for a single room, the university evaluates *each request individually* based on documented functional impact.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

The following questions are commonly asked regarding medical single accommodations. While a single room may be requested in certain cases, there are a variety of ways the university can support student needs even within shared living spaces. MVNU works to provide resources, strategies, and partnerships across Accessibility Services, Residence Life, and other campus offices to help students thrive. The options below highlight examples of support available for students who need quiet, privacy, safety, or other accommodations, even if a single room is not necessary.

“These resources may support students whose needs do not rise to the level of requiring a housing accommodation. They do not replace disability-related accommodations when such accommodations are necessary.

### **Quiet Space to Study**

Residence halls are living spaces, not designated quiet study environments. MVNU provides library study rooms, extended-hours spaces, study carrels, and residence hall study areas. Noise-canceling tools are encouraged.

### **Need to Be Alone or Decompress**

Students may use private study rooms, outdoor spaces, reflection areas, counseling services, and work with Residence Life on roommate boundaries.

### **Control Over Space**

Shared living builds communication and boundary-setting skills. Residence Life staff assist with roommate agreements and mediation.

### **Bad Roommate Situations**

Residence Life and Counseling Services provide structured support for resolving roommate concerns.

### **Medication Safety**

Students should lock rooms and store medications in lockboxes or safes.

### **Life-Threatening Allergies**

Accessibility Services and Residence Life collaborate on mitigation strategies, roommate matching, and education.

### **If a Single Room Is Denied**

Students may pursue private rooms if available, with additional fees, or request placement on a waiting list.

### **Request and Review Process**

Students must submit a Housing Accommodation Request Form, medical documentation from a qualified provider, and a personal statement (500 words or fewer). Students should anticipate a meeting with the Director of Accessibility Services. Requests are reviewed monthly by the Housing Committee. Requests submitted after the semester deadlines will be considered for the following semester. Only emergency situations will be considered for potential approval of a medical single room for the current semester. "Mid-semester adjustments are considered when new disability-related information arises or when a significant change in condition creates a barrier to access."

### **Deadlines**

- Fall Semester:
  - Returning Students – March 20
  - New Students – July 1
- Spring Semester:
  - Returning Students – November 30
  - New Students – December 15