FAQ’s on OSA COVID & Accommodations for Students and Faculty

1) How are my accommodations going to work now that we are moving classes online after March 30th?

The good news is that some accommodations are easier to do online. For example, many students require notetaking assistance, since online lectures are often already recorded you can listen to them as many times as you need or even use free captioning services like Microsoft Teams [http://bit.ly/2QcsF61](http://bit.ly/2QcsF61) or Youtube captions [http://bit.ly/3aLSPnK](http://bit.ly/3aLSPnK) which allow you to potentially create and download a transcript.

   a. Extra-time on tests
      i. Reservations are no longer required since no exams or tests will be proctored at the OSA for the remainder of the spring semester. So you are not required to submit our online test forms in advance. But, we do suggest that you send professors a reminder before each test, exam, or quiz by requesting a new letter of accommodation at [http://bit.ly/OSAletr](http://bit.ly/OSAletr) and then send it to them via email.

   b. Closed captioning, interpreters
      i. If professors are using blackboard for live sessions refer them to: [https://help.blackboard.com/Collaborate/Ultra/Participant/Accessibility/Captions](https://help.blackboard.com/Collaborate/Ultra/Participant/Accessibility/Captions)

   c. Notetaking
      i. For recorded material simply replay as needed, for live content see [http://bit.ly/2QcsF61](http://bit.ly/2QcsF61)

   d. Testing in a distraction reduced environment
      i. No testing will be done on campus, so you create the distraction reduced testing environment for yourself

   e. Medically related absences
      i. Attendance is rarely an issue since professors don’t take role for most online courses, if they do or if you have presentations, group work or lectures at a designated time be sure and follow the same procedures discussed at: [https://www.utdallas.edu/studentaccess/accomodation-facstaff/#A](https://www.utdallas.edu/studentaccess/accomodation-facstaff/#A)

   f. Enlarged font, screen readers, other adaptive technology
      i. This can get more complicated as many faculty will require the lockdown browser that can conflict with some adaptive technologies. See if the professor will let you try a practice test with your technology or contact the OSA.

2) Do I need to get a new accommodation letter just for my online classes?

If you think you may still need any accommodations, it would be a good idea to send a new letter to the professor by email, and indicate the ones you think are most important in online learning [http://bit.ly/OSAletr](http://bit.ly/OSAletr)

3) What will happen to my class deadlines for homework, papers, projects etc.?

In most cases, this question should be directed to your professor. We do have a few students who qualify for extensions of due dates (up to 48 hours). Otherwise, students with
accommodations will be expected to meet the same deadlines as everyone else.

4) Campus is closed does that mean my exams are canceled?
   No, the exams are at the discretion of the professor whether or not they want to postpone exams or have them in an online format.

5) How do my accommodated exams work now?
   Reservations are no longer required since no exams or tests will be proctored at the OSA for the remainder of the spring semester. So you are not required to submit our online test forms in advance. But, we do suggest that you send professors a reminder before each test, exam, or quiz by requesting a new letter of accommodation at http://bit.ly/OSAlet and then send it to them via email.

6) I hate online learning! Isn’t there a way for my professors to still give me a hard copy of my exams or put off my deadlines until we have classes on campus again?
   Unfortunately, in times of a global pandemic options are limited. Students are encouraged to read these tips https://www.northeastern.edu/graduate/blog/tips-for-taking-online-classes/ for a more optimal online learning experience. You may drop your classes until April 22nd due to the pandemic, ask your academic advisor about the non-academic withdrawal process.

7) Will the OSA be available if I have questions?
   Yes, just email us at studentaccess@utdallas.edu

8) Who can help me login to eLearning, find my online classes and tests etc.?
   See: https://ets.utdallas.edu/elearning/students