



ACCESSIBILITY AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER *The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA*

Airborne Food Allergens

For University students with airborne food allergies (ex. fish, shellfish, eggs, milk, peanuts, soy, wheat, and sesame), the approach to accommodation typically focuses on personal management rather than institutional mandates or class-wide announcements. The Accessibility and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) typically does not approve accommodations requiring professors to announce allergies to classes or to create allergen-free zones.

Students are expected to manage their airborne food allergies in a manner consistent with how they handle their condition in other public settings. This generally includes:

- **Utilizing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** This might involve using personal air purifiers, utilizing masks to limit exposure, or taking other individual precautions.
- **Carrying an Epi-Pen:** Students with a prescription for an Epi-Pen are expected to carry it for *self-administration* in case of an allergic reaction.
- **Wearing an Alert Bracelet:** An alert bracelet can provide crucial information to first responders in an emergency.

It is important to note that the ADRC, University professors and staff, and OU students are not trained and cannot be trained to administer an Epi-Pen due to safety and liability concerns. This is outside their scope of responsibility.

Although students are encouraged to practice self-advocacy by informing roommates or professors about their allergy and may even request that a class consider refraining from bringing certain allergens into the classroom, neither the ADRC nor professors can guarantee an allergen-free environment on campus.

Unlike K-12 settings, airlines, or some other smaller venues, a college environment cannot control what students eat or when. Bringing a food item containing peanuts to a classroom where snacks are permitted is not a violation of the University's [student code of conduct](#). Any request to avoid specific foods in the classroom should be approached as a courtesy request rather than a mandate.

All requests for reasonable accommodations are determined on a case-by-case basis. Students requesting accommodations, including those related to Airborne Food Allergies, should complete the ADRC Registration Process as outlined below.

Registration Process

- Fill out our [Application for Accommodations](#) to self-identify as a student with a disability and submit documentation to the Accessibility and Disability Resource Center. Information regarding the documentation can be found in our [Documentation Guidelines](#). The ADRC requires that the information includes how the disability impacts the student's ability to live on campus.
- Once your **documentation** and **application for accommodations** have been received, it will be reviewed within *3-5 university business days*. Please check your **OU email** account regularly because this is how we will contact you once your documentation has been reviewed.
- **The ADRC reserves the right to request updated or additional documentation as needed to determine appropriate accommodations.**
- When you receive an email from ADRC, please follow the instructions in the email.
- During the registration appointment, you and an ADRC Team member will discuss appropriate accommodations to provide equal housing opportunities.

Contact ADRC at adrc@ou.edu with any questions.