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Under Subpart E of Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), institutions of higher education must provide auxiliary aids and services to students with documented disabilities. Institutions are prohibited from denying equal access to the institution's programs, courses and activities.

Audio recorders are a legitimate auxiliary aid to supplement or substitute note taking for some students with disabilities. Thus, audio recordings are generally considered a reasonable accommodation for students whose disability documentation calls for this accommodation and have been approved for it by Accessibility Services.

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Sometimes postsecondary instructors may not be familiar with Section 504 or ADA requirements regarding Questions arise when a student uses a tape recorder. College teachers may believe recording lectures is an infringement upon their own or other students' academic freedom, or constitutes copyright violation.

The instructor may not forbid a student's use of an aid if that prohibition limits the student's participation in the school program. The Section 504 regulation states:

A recipient may not impose upon handicapped students other rules, such as the prohibition of tape recorders in classrooms or of dog guides in campus buildings, that have the effect of limiting the participation of handicapped students in the recipient's education program or activity. In order to allow a student with a disability the use of an effective aid and, at the same time, protect the instructor, the institution may require the student to sign an agreement so as not to infringe on a potential copyright or to limit freedom of speech.

(Source:				
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Accessibility Services will engage with instructors if there are concerns so that privacy and protection of copyright is respected and addressed while still assuring the availability of an accommodation for the student. If there are questions or concerns regarding the recording of lectures, please consult Accessibility Services.

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Identifying and addressing concerns early in the semester is important for the best possible outcomes for the student. If there are any questions, the student or instructor can contact Accessibility Services for help. Accessibility Services and the college Equity Compliance Officer will work with the student (and parents/guardians as applicable) to address concerns about how the accommodation is being handled.

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Counseling, Accessibility & Resources Accessibility Services is in the Wynn Building on Main Campus, on the 2nd Floor, in Suite 10-209. It is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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