University of Houston-Downtown

Accessible Education Center

Building Ramps, Not Steps

A guide to supporting students with disabilities

Presented by Martina Johnson, Director of the Accessible Education Center

University of Houston-Downtown
Accessible Education Center

University of Houston-Downtown
Accessible Education Center

Supporting Students with Disabilities

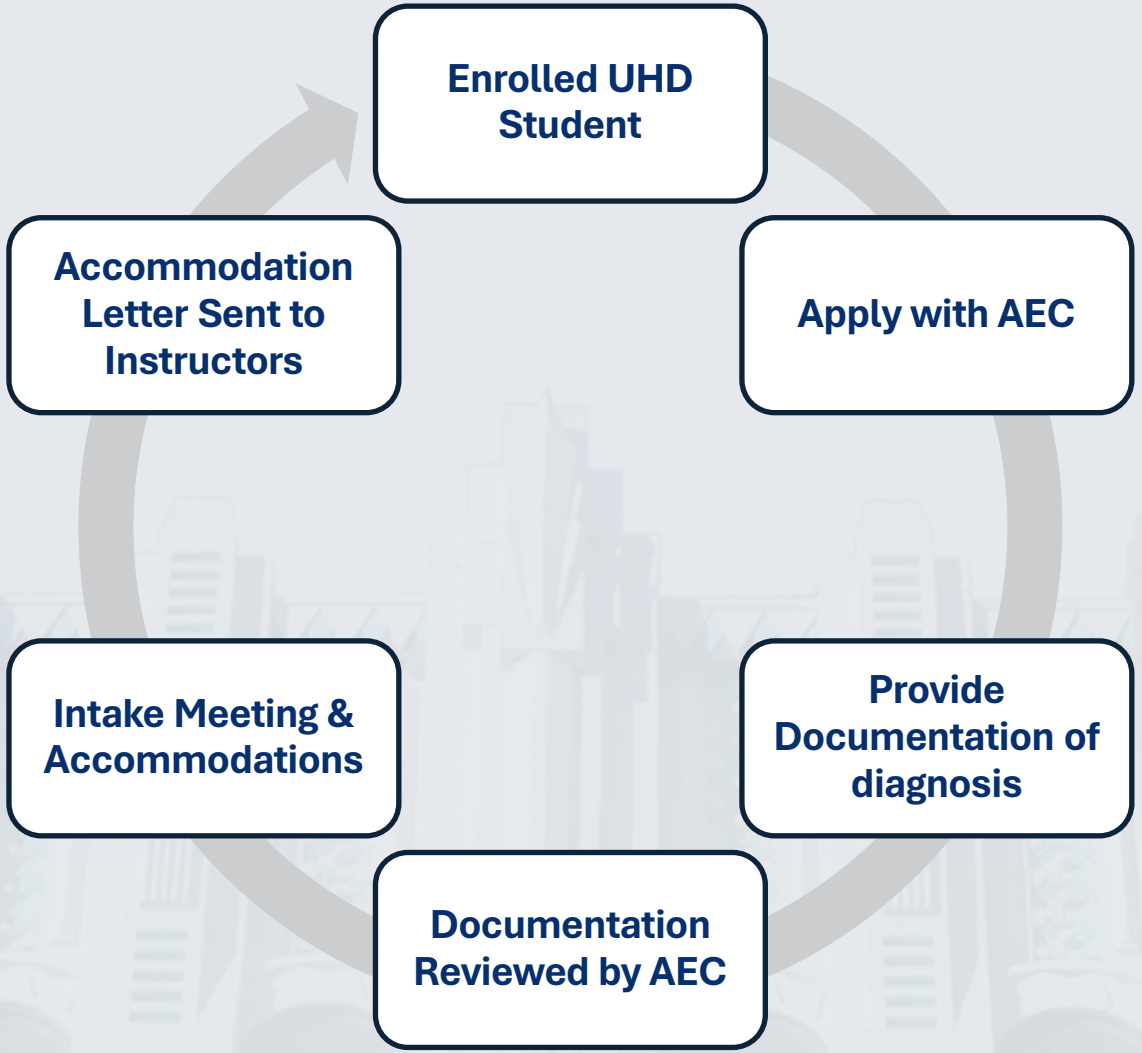
An **Invisible Disability** is a physical, mental, or neurological impairment that is not obvious to others, but may impact a person's movements, senses, activities and day to day life.

Estimated 70% to 80% of disabilities globally.

- **ADA**
  - Civil Rights law that protects people with disabilities from discrimination
- **Who Qualifies**
  - A person who has a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity
  - Has record of having an impairment
  - Is regarded as having an impairment
- **Accommodations**
  - Organizations must provide reasonable accommodations so that qualified students with disabilities can participate fully in the same programs, activities, and services as their peers

University of Houston-Downtown
Accessible Education Center

AEC Process for Students



University of Houston-Downtown
Accessible Education Center

Student Accommodations

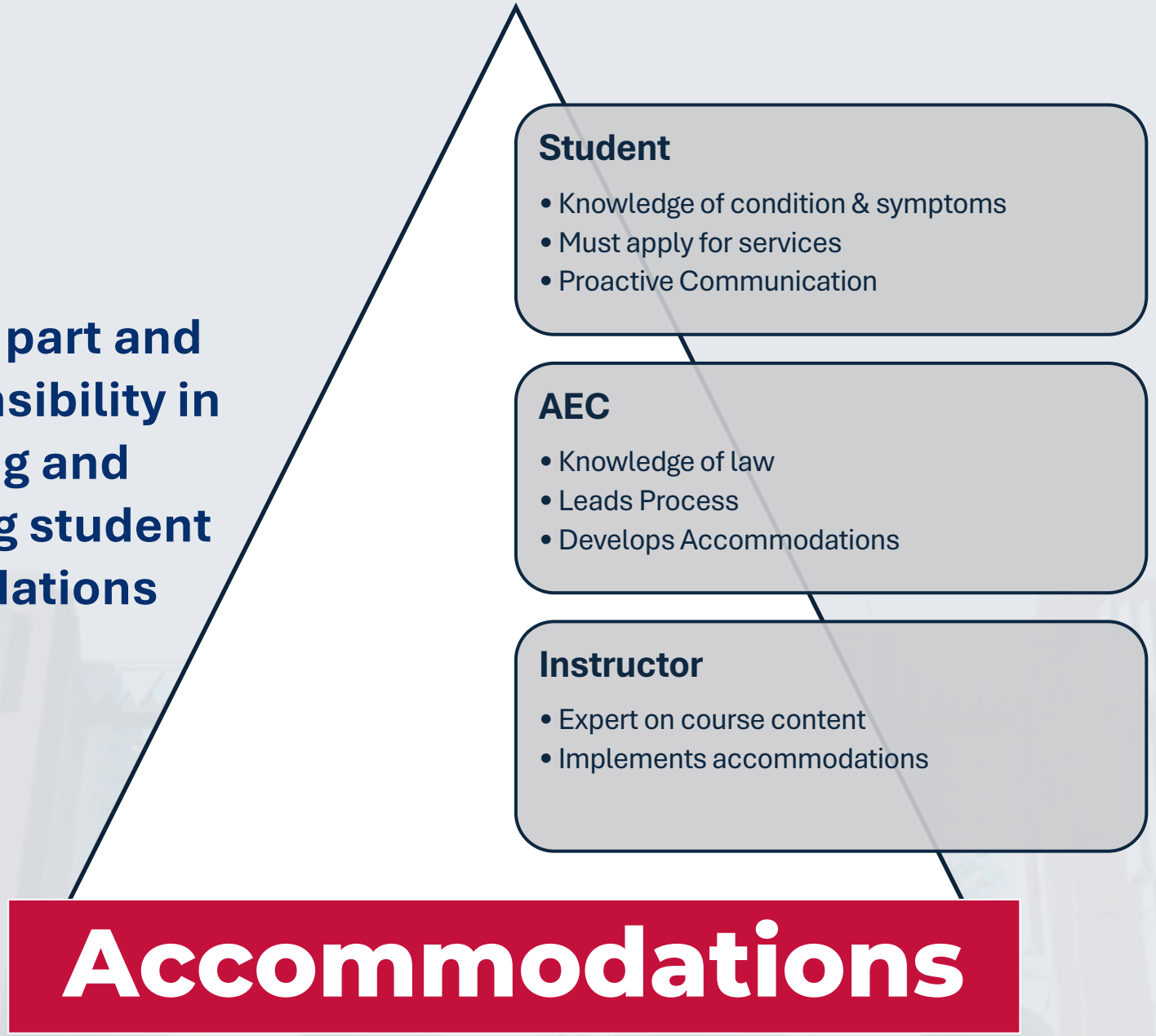
Accommodations should be directly related to the disability and are designed to create access not an advantage.
The goal is to "level the playing field."

Instructors and students should work collaboratively to determine how approved accommodations can be implemented effectively within the structure and requirements of each course.

ATTENTION: The disability or diagnosis is not shared with the instructor, only the accommodations.

University of Houston-Downtown
Accessible Education Center

We all play a part and have a responsibility in developing and implementing student accommodations



University of Houston-Downtown
Accessible Education Center

THANK YOU