

Psychological and Psychiatric Disabilities Documentation Guidelines

Psychological and psychiatric disabilities comprise a range of conditions characterized by emotional, cognitive, and/or behavioral dysfunction. A diagnosis by a licensed mental health professional including psychologists, neuropsychologists, psychiatrists, neuropsychiatrists, other relevantly trained medical doctors, clinical social workers, licensed counselors, and psychiatric nurse practitioners is required. The diagnostician must be an impartial individual who is not a family member of the student. The name, title, and credentials of the qualified professional writing the report should be included.

Documentation for eligibility must reflect the **current impact** the disability has on the student's functioning. In most cases, this means a diagnosis has been made and/or treatment has been prescribed **within the past three years**. Because the provision of all reasonable accommodations and services is based upon assessment of the current impact of the student's disabilities on his/her academic performance, it is in a student's best interest to provide recent and appropriate documentation. Documentation should include:

- A clear statement of the disability, including the DSM-IV-TR diagnosis and a summary of present symptoms (based on the DSM-IV-TR or ICD-10). A summary of assessment procedures and evaluation instruments used to make the diagnosis, including evaluation results and standardized scores if applicable,
- A description of the current functional limitations in the academic environment as well as across other settings. This may include a history of presenting symptoms, duration and severity of the disorder, and relevant historical and familial data,
- Medical information relating to the student's needs, including the impact of medication on the student's ability to meet the demands of the postsecondary environment. This may include the current medication regimen and side effects (if relevant),
- Relevant information regarding current treatment,
- A specific request for accommodations with accompanying rationale. A link must be established between the requested accommodations and the functional limitations of the student in the academic environment. A diagnosis in and of itself does not automatically warrant approval of requested accommodations.

Further assessment by an appropriate professional may be required if co-existing learning disabilities or other disabling conditions are indicated. The student and the Office of Student Disability Services will collaboratively determine appropriate accommodations.

NOTE: Please complete and return the **Student Intake Form** and the **Release of Information Form** with your documentation.