

Guidelines for Documentation of Sensory Impairments

A specific sensory disability must currently substantially limit some major life activity, including learning, to support eligibility under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Documentation must, therefore, support this eligibility, as well as any requests for reasonable accommodations. The following guidelines describe the necessary components of acceptable documentation for students with sensory disabilities. Students are encouraged to provide their clinicians with a copy of these guidelines. All documentation must be current, within the last three years.

Hearing Impairments and Deafness:

Students who are deaf or hard of hearing must provide documentation consisting of all the following:

- An audiological evaluation and/or audiogram; **and**
- An interpretation of the functional implications of the diagnostic data.

Visual Impairments & Blindness:

Students requesting accommodations on the basis of low vision or blindness must provide documentation consisting of:

- An ocular assessment or evaluation from an ophthalmologist, or a low-vision evaluation of residual visual function, where appropriate; **and**
- Assessment of functionally limiting manifestations of the disabling condition.

Speech Impairments:

Students requesting accommodations on the basis of a speech/language disability must provide documentation consisting of:

- A clearly written statement of the disability diagnosed by a qualified professional trained in this area (e.g., physician, speech/language pathologist, neurologist, etc.); **and**
- A summary of the various evaluation tools used in determining the specific disability; **and**
- A summary of present symptoms and how these symptoms affect the student's functioning, specifically in relation to the post secondary environment.

***Please note that the University and the Office of Disability Support Services reserve the right to deny services or accommodations while the receipt of appropriate documentation is pending.**