



Office of
Disability Services

Documentation Guidelines for Students with Psychiatric Disabilities

Professional qualifications of the Evaluator

Students requesting accommodations on the basis of a psychiatric disability must provide current documentation from a licensed psychologist, psychiatrist, neurologist, clinical social worker or mental health counselor. The diagnostician must be an impartial individual who is not a family member of the student. The documentation must include the following:

Diagnosis

A specific, current psychiatric diagnosis as per the DSM-IV-TR which indicates the nature, frequency and severity of the symptoms upon which the diagnosis was predicated. A diagnosis without an explicit listing of current symptoms is not sufficient. Primary and Secondary Axis I and Axis II diagnosis are required.

Current Impact of the Disability

A clinical summary must include what substantial limitations to major life activities are/is posed by the psychiatric disability as well as describing to what extent these limitations would/will impact the academic context for which the accommodations are being requested.

Medications

Prescribed medications, dosages and schedules, which may influence the types of accommodations provided.

Recommendations for the Student's College Program (optional)

The report should contain the following:

- Recommendations for specific reasonable accommodations that are needed to address the current and substantial impact of the disability on the student's academic functioning.
- Recommendation for reasonable accommodations pertaining to the individual's campus board, room or transportation needs.
- Suggestions about how the specific effects of the psychiatric disability may be accommodated.
- How the effects of the psychiatric disability are mediated by the recommended accommodations.

To assist students in providing this information, our Psychiatric Disability Verification Form is available at the following link:

http://www.wpi.edu/Images/CMS/Disabilities/Psychiatric_Disability_Verification_Form.pdf

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