

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS OF STUDENTS WITH MEDICAL DISABILITIES

The Disability Service Office is responsible for verifying the eligibility of students requesting accommodation on the basis of disability. Accommodations are adjustments to the environment provided to “level the playing field” with respect to the current functional limitations of an enrolled student. They are not remedial in nature, nor do they change or reduce the academic standards of a course or degree program.

Students who plan to request accommodations must first disclose their disability by submitting a report that documents their needs. After the report has been submitted and reviewed, the student will be contacted.

All documentation reports must be typewritten and signed on professional letterhead bearing the physician’s address, phone, and clinical affiliation.

Professional Qualifications of the Evaluator:

The physician’s license number certifying his or her status as a practicing medical doctor (M.D.) or doctor of osteopathy (D.O.) and any additional information about specialty credentials should be contained in the report.

Diagnostic and Treatment Information:

- The report should describe the type and severity of the individual’s symptoms at the time of first diagnosis, and state the approximate date of onset. It should describe the subsequent progress and treatment of the condition.
- The report should contain a description of type of severity of the individual’s current symptoms.
- The report should detail any currently prescribed or recommended treatment, care, or assistive devices. Examples include medical treatment, physical therapy or other therapies, dietary requirements, mobility devices or other assistive devices, and full or part-time attendant care.

Current Impact of the Disability

- The report should describe the manner and level of severity with which the disability currently impacts general functioning.
- The report should describe manner and level of severity with which the disability currently impacts academic functioning, e.g., reading, memorizing, writing, note taking, test-taking, etc.
- The report should indicate any types of activity that might be a typical part of a college program that are specifically contraindicated by the student’s disability.

Recommendations for the Student's College Program:

- The report should contain recommendations for specific reasonable accommodations that are needed to address the current and substantial impact of the disability on the student's academic functioning.
- The report should contain recommendations for reasonable accommodations pertaining to the individual's campus board, room or transportation needs.

Adapted with permission from SDS University Iowa