

Office for Students with Disabilities

Documentation Requirements for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing

In order to provide reasonable and appropriate academic accommodations to self-identifying students with disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Amendments Act (ADAAA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, LSSC's Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) requires documentation which shows the current disability and its impact on academic functioning. The documentation provided must include the following information:

- Documentation **must** be reasonably current.
- The name, title, and professional credentials of the evaluator, including license or certification numbers, **must** be included in the letter or report. Professionals conducting the evaluation/assessment must be qualified to do so.
- Letters or reports **must** be on letterhead, typed, dated, with a signature of the doctor or evaluator and must clearly state the specific diagnosis of the disability. Terms such as "suggest" or "is indicative of" are not acceptable. A doctor's prescription pad note or hand-written note is not sufficient documentation in and of itself.
- Diagnostic info should include specific recommendations for reasonable academic accommodations and the rationale for the accommodations. This information will assist the OSD in determining eligibility and identifying effective and reasonable auxiliary aids and or accommodations. Documentation **must** indicate the student's specific current functional impairment(s) and describe how the disorder/impairment substantially limits one or more major life activities (related to academic performance).
- Sufficient documentation must clearly show the presence of a disabling condition and justify the need for reasonable accommodations. Additional documentation or information may be necessary, however; all information is confidential and will be used only to determine eligibility for services and to assist the student.

Specific Information

Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing

Report from an audiologist or otolaryngologist that includes:

- Results of an audiogram showing the degree of hearing loss
- The type of hearing loss (conductive or sensorineural)
- Whether the hearing loss is temporary or permanent, and if it is stable or progressive
- Whether the condition is mitigated by hearing aids or medication
- A description of the functional limitation(s) caused by the disability. What is the impact in an academic setting?
- Recommendations for reasonable academic accommodations