

Office for Students with Disabilities

Documentation Requirements for Visual Impairment

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 clinical diagnosis is not synonymous with a disability. 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. A doctor's prescription pad note or hand-written note is not sufficient documentation in and of itself, but can be included as part of the student's file. 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 Documentation Information Needed

Visual Impairment

Report or letter from an ophthalmologist or optometrist that includes:

- The specific medical condition which causes the visual impairment
- The degree of visual acuity, including with corrective lenses and the extent of the visual fields
- Whether the condition is temporary or permanent, and if it is stable or progressive
- Whether the condition is mitigated by corrective lenses or medication
- A description of the functional limitation(s) caused by the disability
- Recommendations for reasonable academic accommodations including any visual aids. How does this impact the student in an academic setting?