Elements of Expected Documentation

Thank you for inquiring about academic adjustments or housing and dining accommodations. Please keep in mind that a disability is defined as “A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, or a record of a physical or mental impairment that substantially limited a major life activity.” Documentation provided must be current and specific with the impact of the disability clearly noted.

You must upload documentation of your disability from a qualified professional. A list is provided at the end of this document. Documentation must include a formal diagnosis (ICD 10 or DSM-V) as well as a discussion of how the diagnosis is an impairment to a major life activity. All documentation will be kept confidential and separate from your student academic file. Once the documentation is submitted and reviewed, the student will be contacted by email to their Oberlin account to advise of the determination.

In an effort to help clarify what is expected for documentation, here are the expected guidelines:

- Letters should be typed on healthcare provider letterhead, signed with an actual signature, dated and include the name, title, credentials, state and license number of the professional.
- Letters should include a clear diagnostic statement identifying the disability and a description of the diagnostic methodology being used.
- Letters should include a description of the functional limitations impacting the student and a statement of the level of impairment to major life activity in terms of the severity, frequency and pervasiveness of the condition(s).
- Letters should include a description of the expected progression or stability of the disability (i.e., any expected changes in the functional impact of the disability over time and context).
- Letters should include a description of current and past accommodations and/or services. While these are not binding on the current institution, they may provide insight for current planning purposes.
- A recommendation for requested accommodations and a rationale as to how these are logically related to functional limitations. Recommendations from professionals with a history of working with the student may provide valuable information.

- Please note that no academic adjustment can fundamentally alter the course or program.

Acceptable Practitioners

- MD
- DO
- PhD
- DDS
- DMD
- Psy.D
- MSW
- LCSW
- Fully Licensed Counselor
- Licensed Audiologist (Not Audiology Assistant)