

Office for Disability & Access

Documentation Guidelines

The Office for Disability & Access (ODA) provides academic, programmatic, and physical accessibility and services to students with disabilities. ODA frequently assists students with various medical conditions and diagnosed disabilities, including attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, learning disabilities, seizure disorder, traumatic brain injury, depression, anxiety, arthritis, gastrointestinal diseases, deafness, hearing loss, and blindness. It is important to note that this is not an exhaustive list; thus, we welcome all students with disabilities to seek our services.

Eligibility for accommodations and services is established through information obtained from the student's self-report and submitted documentation. The documentation must be *on letterhead, typed, dated, signed, or on the appropriate ODA fillable provider documentation form** (see www.oberlin.edu/disability-access). The information must be from a qualified/licensed professional (e.g., physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, mental health counselor, etc.), unrelated to the student, and whose credentials permit the evaluation of the disability. The following guidelines are provided to assist students in obtaining documentation to establish the need for reasonable accommodations:

1. A clear statement of the medical or psychiatric diagnosis (i.e., ICD-10, DSM-5) with a description of the student's current symptoms (if applicable, specify if the diagnosis is in partial or complete remission);
2. Date of the initial diagnosis and date of the most recent visit with the student for this diagnosis;
3. Information regarding the functional impact or limitations of the condition or disability on the student's learning and other major life activities;
4. The impact of medication on the student's ability to meet the demands of the postsecondary environment, if relevant;
5. The expected duration, stability, or progression of the disability.
6. For students who experience flare-ups or intermittent symptoms, describe the current severity, duration, and frequency;
7. For students with a documented learning disability: documentation ideally includes a comprehensive evaluation of intelligence and academic achievement, with standardized scaled scores and composite scores to support the diagnosis or eligibility classification. This is commonly included in a psychoeducational assessment conducted by a school psychologist or a licensed psychologist;
8. Suggest recommendations for accommodations or services that the student may require.
9. For **Housing requests**, the following information is also required:
 - a) State the specific accommodations that are needed in housing;
 - b) Describe how the student's medical/psychiatric condition necessitates the requested housing accommodation, as it relates to the student's disability;
 - c) Demonstrate how the specific room design or living environment will help to mitigate the student's symptoms;
 - d) State whether, based on disability reasons, the specific housing request is a preference or a required accommodation.

*NOTE: The Office for Disability & Access has comprehensive forms for providers to complete for Housing, Dining, and ESA requests instead of writing a letter.

Further assessment or additional documentation may be necessary if the documentation does not support the requested accommodations. Please get in touch with ODA at 440-775-5588 or ODA@oberlin.edu if you have any questions. All documentation is considered confidential and should be sent to:

The Office for Disability & Access
Mudd Center, Room 205
148 W. College St., Oberlin OH, 44074

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