

Individuals Who are Blind or Experience Low Vision

Ophthalmologists are the primary professionals involved in diagnosis and medical treatment of individuals who are blind or experience low vision. Optometrists provide information regarding the measurement of visual acuity as well as tracking and fusion difficulties (including but not limited to: eye movement disorders, inefficiency in using both eyes together, misalignment of the eyes, lazy eye, focusing problems, visual sensory disorders, and motor integration). The diagnostician should be an impartial individual who is not a family member of the student.

GUIDELINES FOR DOCUMENTATION

The following guidelines are provided to assist the service provider in collaborating with each student to determine appropriate accommodations. Documentation serves as the foundation that supports a student's request for appropriate accommodations.

Recommended documentation includes:

1. A clear statement of vision related disability with supporting numerical description (the age of acceptable documentation is dependent upon the disabling condition, the student's current status, and the student's request for accommodations).
2. A summary of assessment procedures and evaluation instruments used to make the diagnosis and a summary of evaluation results including standardized scores.
3. Present symptoms that meet the criteria for diagnosis.
4. Medical information relating to the student's needs and the status of the individual's vision (static or changing) and its impact on the demands of the postsecondary environment.
5. Narrative or descriptive text providing both quantitative and qualitative information about the student's abilities that might be helpful in understanding the student's profile, including the use of corrective lenses and ongoing visual therapy (if appropriate).

Appropriate accommodations will be determined collaboratively with the student. Further assessment by an appropriate professional may be required if co-existing disabling conditions are indicated. **All documentation is confidential.**

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