



Documentation Guidelines: Students who are Blind or Low Vision

Students who are seeking accommodations or academic support services due to blindness or low vision are required to submit documentation to verify eligibility under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the ADA of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act of 2009. The following guidelines are provided to assure that documentation is appropriate to verify eligibility.

Qualifications of the Evaluator

Ophthalmologists are the primary professionals qualified to provide diagnosis and treatment of students who are blind or low vision. Optometrists can also provide information regarding measurement of visual acuity, as well as related tracking and vision difficulties.

The name, title and professional credentials of the evaluator, including information about license or certification as well as the area of specialization, employment and state/province in which the individual practices should be clearly stated in the documentation. Reports should be on letterhead, typed, dated, signed, and otherwise legible.

Current Impact of Disability

Documentation should clearly state the student's diagnosis, including approximate date of onset and whether their condition is static or changing. The documentation should contain a description of the manner in which the disability currently impacts general and academic functioning.

Documentation can also include treatment information, including current prescribed or recommended treatment, care, or assistive devices.

If documentation is inadequate in scope or content, or does not address the student's current level of functioning and need for accommodations, reevaluation may be warranted.

Documentation Must Include:

- Clinical diagnosis of blindness or low vision with supporting summary of evaluation results that reflects the current impact of the student's diagnosis.
- Information regarding current, specific functional limitations as a result of the diagnosis.
- Recommendations for accommodations, including accommodations in the classroom and/or living in campus residential housing as appropriate.

While a qualified evaluator may make recommendations regarding accommodations, FSU is responsible for determining a reasonable accommodation.