



Documentation Guidelines: Students who are d/Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Students who are seeking accommodations or academic support services due to hearing loss or d/Deafness 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

Physicians, including otorhinolaryngologists and otologists, are qualified to provide diagnosis and treatment for students who have hearing loss or are d/Deaf. Audiologists may also provide most recent audiograms, if appropriate.

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 hearing loss or d/Deafness with a current audiogram that reflects the current impact of hearing loss or d/Deafness.
- 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.