

DOCUMENTATION FOR HEARING IMPAIRED

Students requesting accommodations based on a diagnosis of Deafness or Hearing Impaired are required to submit documentation which verifies eligibility according to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADAAA.

This medical documentation of disability must include a comprehensive evaluation prepared by a licensed or otherwise properly credentialed professional who is:

1. certified to evaluate the disability,
2. familiar with the challenges and functional requirements of a college environment, and
3. an impartial evaluator who is not a family member nor in a dual relationship with the student.

The medical documentation must be current (in order to reflect present functioning for the college environment, evaluation must be within 1-2 years), must include a clear statement of the diagnosis and prognosis as well as the extent, duration, and current functional impact of the disability. The diagnosis and recommended accommodations must be clearly linked to the test data and must include an explanation of each.

Assessment

If your disability is progressive, or if you experience any change in the severity that would affect your accommodations, you must provide updated documentation that reflects the change in status. An Audiologist can provide information regarding diagnosis and treatment of those individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired. If condition involves progressive loss, a more current diagnosis may be required. In these cases, recommended current documentation should be within 1 year). The documentation should be written in narrative report format with the name, address, phone number and title and/or credentials of the specialist making the assessment.

The assessment must include:

1. A detailed summary of audiometric procedures and/or audiological testing indicating the nature and the degree of hearing loss, and any speech recognition/ discrimination evaluations.
2. A summary of assessment procedures used to make the evaluation and a narrative summary of results.
3. Pertinent history, a current diagnosis of hearing impairment including the level of severity.
4. Narrative of whether the hearing loss is stable or progressive.
5. Whether assistive devices such as hearing aids or FM systems are used and their effectiveness.
6. A description of the student's functional limitations in an educational setting.
7. Suggestions of reasonable accommodations that might be appropriate at the postsecondary level are encouraged. These recommendations should be supported by the diagnosis.