



## Student Accessibility Services at OSU Center for Health Sciences

### What is Documentation?

The purpose of the documentation is to provide verification that an individual has a disability that meets the definition contained in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended in 1998. In addition, the documentation provides additional information about the functional impact of the disability so appropriate accommodations can be designed for the individual in a college academic setting. State and federal regulations require tangible evidence verifying a student's disability and the need for utilizing academic support services offered by the OSU-CHS Office of Graduate Programs' Student Accessibility Services.

#### Documentation is written information that states:

- The student's SPECIFIC disability. Verification of a disability alone may not support academic accommodations.
- The functional impact of the disability on the student's academic performance. Statements such as: "cannot grip a pen for more than five minutes," or "will lose concentration when in the presence of visual distractions," are statements that give an assessment of abilities.
- The SPECIFIC ACCOMMODATIONS needed for the student to participate in classes. Colleges and universities are not required to make accommodations or program modifications that would change the nature of the course or waive the requirements that are considered elements of the course curriculum.

#### Documentation Guidelines:

- Documentation cannot be any older than THREE YEARS OLD.
- Documentation will become the property of OSU CHS Graduate Programs' Student Accessibility Services and will be kept confidential in locked files.
- Documentation MUST be typed. Hand-written documentation will not be accepted.
- Documentation must be SIGNED by the Doctor or Specialist and must include the title of the person signing the documentation.
- Documentation MUST be on the Doctor or Specialist's official letterhead.
- Documentation MUST include the student's full legal name and birthdate.

**PLEASE NOTE:** A doctor or specialist who is qualified (certified or licensed) to make a diagnosis and recommend reasonable academic accommodations for the specific disability must provide the documentation. A medical doctor can diagnose a physical disability. A clinical psychologist or psychiatrist can diagnose an emotional or mental disability. A psychometrist can diagnose a learning disability.

**The student must provide documentation before academic accommodations are provided.**