



# Disability Services Office

## Documentation Guidelines

These guidelines will assist you in identifying or obtaining documentation necessary to verify eligibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Students requesting support services through the Navarro College Disability Services Office are required to submit documentation. Providing documentation does not automatically qualify an individual for academic accommodations.

### Appropriate documentation should meet the following guidelines:

- The evaluation should be **typed on letterhead** that includes the place of employment, address, and phone number of the qualified professional that completed the evaluation. It must be dated, and signed by the qualified professional.
- The evaluation must be conducted by a **qualified professional** with comprehensive training and relevant experience in the diagnosis of psychiatric and related disorders. It must include the name, title, and professional credentials of the evaluator including information about license, certification and/or area(s) of specialization.
- Qualified professionals may include: psychologists, neuro-psychologists, psychiatrists, and other relevantly trained medical doctors - *The qualified professional(s) completing evaluation must be impartial and not related to person being evaluated.*
- The documentation and identified diagnosis must be **current**. In most cases, this means the diagnostic evaluation or verifying letter must have been completed **within the past three years**. In some cases, it may be necessary to update or obtain a more recent diagnostic evaluation.
- The documentation must address the **severity or current level of functioning** of the individual and areas of academic impact.
- The diagnostic evaluation or verifying letter must identify current **functional limitations and/or academic limitations** and address the need for accommodations in an educational setting.

Information in these guidelines was derived from a variety of sources, including the **Association of Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD), Educational Testing Service, the University of North Texas, and Collin College**. AHEAD and ETS have developed comprehensive documentation guidelines for use by post-secondary institutions.



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## Autism Spectrum Disorder

### Autism Spectrum Disorder documentation must include:

1. **Specific diagnosis** of an Autism Spectrum Disorder (using **definitive** language) according to DSM / ICD diagnostic criteria and specification of presenting symptoms.
2. **Severity of the condition** and/or assessment of the social, occupational, and psychological functioning of the individual.
3. **Current Functional Limitations** or symptoms of the Autism Spectrum Disorder that impact this individual in educational setting / academic environment.

### Autism Spectrum Disorder documentation should also include:

- A history of deficits related to one or more of the following areas:
  - a) communication/language skills, b) ability to interact socially, c) restricted, repetitive and/or stereotyped patterns of behavior, activities and sensory functioning, d) sensitivity to environmental conditions, e) motor planning, etc.
  - Evidence to support these statements may include results of aptitude and achievement testing, standardized tests of language skills and standardized scales of symptoms related to Autism as well as clinical observations including level of severity.
- Review of psycho-educational testing which supports attention or learning difficulty.
- An investigation of possible medical, psychological disorders, or other factors which may cause behaviors similar to an Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- Names of assessment instrument(s) used, date administered, and both quantitative and qualitative information which supports the diagnosis.
- Recommendations for prescriptive treatments and medications prescribed, if any, and the possible impact medication could have on an individual in an educational setting.
- A **Disability Verification Form** is available upon request to assist in providing the information requested above. ***This form can be submitted to your provider to document your disability in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.***