

University of Montevallo

Documentation Guidelines: Psychological Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder

The University has developed reasonable documentation guidelines as allowed by Section 504/ADA/ADAA. It is hoped that the guidelines will assist current and prospective students, and their medical or treatment professionals, in gathering information that will be used by DSS in the process of determining appropriate accommodations. The guidelines are designed to provide flexibility to the DSS office in reviewing each student's request on a case-by-case basis, while also ensuring consistent and effective services.

Documentation should come from an appropriate professional. The type and recency of documentation is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Information is also gathered through the DSS Application and the intake interview with the student. DSS reserves the right to request updated documentation as appropriate, depending on the age of the documentation, the type of accommodations being requested, and/or severity of symptoms.

To determine eligibility for services, the University requests the following information about the disability and its impact:

- Description of the diagnosis and need for accommodation, which may include relevant medical, social or educational impact.
- Description of the impact on major life activities such as learning, concentrating, sleeping, walking, etc.
- Current treatment/medication, including side effects, when relevant.
- Recommendations for reasonable accommodations. If accommodations may vary significantly based on episodic symptoms or be needed on a temporary basis, please describe.

Disclaimer regarding Documentation: Approval for accommodations at the University does not assure the sufficiency of the documentation for transfer to another institution, or for the standards of various professional/graduate school testing agencies. Documentation will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. If the documentation provided is deemed insufficient, additional documentation may be requested. The University has no responsibility for the cost of obtaining such documentation. If documentation is acceptable, but the University wishes to obtain another opinion, the University reserves the right to request such at its expense. Documentation should not be written/completed by a relative. The University reserves the right to contact any professional completing this form to confirm source or ask for clarification of details. Any handwritten documentation must be legible, but typed information is preferred. Documentation should be dated, signed, on letterhead. Final determination of appropriate and reasonable accommodations rests with the University.

Documentation will be held in a confidential manner. There are circumstances, allowable under FERPA, which might necessitate that some student disability information be shared with select University officials (if relevant in an emergency or if related to a student grievance). Court orders, subpoenas or complaints filed outside the University may also result in files provided to

Administrators or University counsel. In any such cases, any University personnel involved will continue to maintain the student's confidentiality. Students must sign a written release for any records to be forwarded to any other institution or agency. Student files will be kept for a minimum of seven years past the last term of enrollment.

Please forward documentation or any questions to:

**Disability Support Services
University of Montevallo
Station 6250
Montevallo, AL 35115-6250**

**(205) 665-6250
(205) 665-6255
DSS@montevallo.edu
www.montevallo.edu/dss**