

Texas Christian University

Center for Academic Services

~Services for Students with Disabilities~



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<http://www.acs.tcu.edu/disability>

Disability Documentation Fact Sheet

What is disability documentation?

- Disability documentation is credible evidence that attests to the existence of an impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, the impact of the impairment on academic performance and related competencies, and recommendations for equal access and/or compensatory measures, commonly referred to as accommodations.
- Disability documentation provides:
 - Evidence of impairment that verifies that the impairment currently exists;
 - Information about the nature of the impairment, including its severity (e.g., mild, moderate, severe), frequency (e.g., how often the symptoms occur) and duration (e.g., permanence and long term versus short term and temporary condition);
 - Background information which describes history of presenting problem(s) such as:
 - Prior academic struggles, informal supports and coping skills used by the student;
 - Review of prior evaluative reports (if any);
 - Any special education services received and review of all pertinent academic history of elementary, secondary and postsecondary education;
 - All relevant developmental, psychosocial and employment histories;
 - Medical history of prior treatment, therapy, interventions and/or accommodations used.
 - Objective evidence or test and subtest scores based on a comprehensive battery of standardized tests;
 - Information about a specific diagnosis or diagnoses;
 - Information ruling out alternative diagnoses or explanations for the impairment;
 - An integrated summary that synthesizes all sources of objective, reported and observed evidence to establish a disability and demonstrate that the impairment(s) constitute substantial limitations to a major life activity. (Adapted from ETS Disability Documentation Guidelines. See www.ets.org.)

What is the purpose of disability documentation?

- Information is used by the University to determine eligibility for disabilities services, as well as individualized academic accommodations and services.
- The determination of eligibility for reasonable and appropriate accommodations is made on a case-by-case basis.