

Eastern Washington University Disability Support Services

Documentation Policy for Hearing Disabilities

Students who are seeking support services from the Disability Support Services Office at EWU on the basis of a hearing loss are required to submit documentation to verify eligibility. Documentation of disability and related information will be kept in a separate file in the DSS office. The cost and responsibility for providing this documentation **shall be borne by the student.**

For the purpose of this policy, a hearing loss can range from mild to profound. Each student's hearing loss, background, course of study, and language preferences should be considered when determining appropriate classroom accommodations. Students' self-perceptions and communication strengths are often at variance with external measures of hearing loss.

Any hearing loss evaluation would be considered to be in the medical domain and require the expertise of a credentialed audiologist (CCC – Certificate of Clinical Competence). **Information describing the certification, licensure, and/or the professional training of individuals conducting the evaluation must be provided.**

Documentation should show current impact of the disability. The age of acceptable documentation is dependent upon the stability of the hearing loss. The documentation should include:

1. A copy of the audiology report.
2. A brief description of the severity of the hearing loss, preferably in layman's terms.
3. A description of assistive devices/services currently prescribed or in use, including the possible effectiveness of these devices or services in an educational setting.
4. A description of the expected progression or stability of the hearing loss over time.

Effect of the disability on the student's ability to access university programs, services, and activities. Must provide sufficient data to support the particular academic adjustment requested.

Suggestions for reasonable accommodations with supporting evidence can be included. The final determination for providing appropriate and reasonable accommodations rests with the University. The Disability Support Services office reserves the right to obtain clarification regarding the documentation, if necessary.

For questions or concerns contact Disability Support Services at the address below.

Revised on February 15, 2018