

Eastern Washington University Disability Support Services

Documentation Policy for Psychiatric Disabilities

Students who are seeking support services from the Disability Support Services Office at EWU on the basis of a psychiatric disability 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 psychological/psychiatric disability is defined as an impairment of cognitive, educational and/or social functioning caused by a disorder as described in the *American Psychiatric Diagnostic Statistical Manual (DSM)*. The disorders of concern here are those which might result in the impairment of a student's chances of success at the college. **Information describing the certification, licensure, and/or the professional training of individuals conducting the evaluation must be provided.**

Documentation should show impact of the disability and should include:

1. Specify the nature, severity, and effect of the disability.
2. State the diagnosis in the nomenclature used by the DSM IV or successive editions.
3. Address the student's ability to function in the college environment (e.g. ability to focus, organize one's time, attend class, work in groups or alone, etc.).
4. If medication is part of the treatment plan, describe any side effects that may interfere with the academic processes.

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