

## Eastern Washington University Disability Support Services

### Documentation Policy for Visual Disabilities

Students who are seeking support services from the Disability Support Services Office at EWU on the basis of a visual 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, the definition of legal blindness is vision that can only be corrected to the acuity of 20/200 or more. Another criterion for legal blindness is if peripheral vision measures 20 degrees or less. Students not considered legally blind may be eligible and need accommodations. Any vision loss evaluation would be considered to be in the medical domain. **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. The diagnosis of the eye disorder, date of most recent visit, and its pathology specific to this individual.
2. A brief description of the severity of the vision loss, preferably in layman's terms, and current impact or limitations.
3. Include any medically relevant testing results.
4. A description of assistive devices or services currently prescribed or in use, including the possible effectiveness of these devices or services in an educational setting.
5. A description of the expected progression or stability of the vision 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