

Psychological Disability Documentation Guidelines

Students who are requesting support services from the Office for Students with Disabilities at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga are required to submit documentation to verify eligibility under the ADA of 1990. Eligibility for civil rights protection requires the applicant to meet one of the following three prongs of the civil rights definition of disability:

- 1) have a physical or mental condition that substantially limits one or more major life activity;
- 2) have a record of such a physical or mental condition; and
- 3) be regarded as having such an impairment, whether actually having the impairment or not.

Examples of disabilities include, but are not limited to, arthritis, blindness/low vision, cerebral palsy, communication disorders, deafness/hearing impairments, emotional/psychological disabilities, multiple sclerosis, seizure disorders, spinal cord injuries, temporary disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, and other health impairments.

The student must provide current written documentation (within the last year) that verifies the existence of the disability.

Verification must include:

- DSM-IV Diagnosis
- description of the functional limitations that may affect academic performance
- rating of severity
- recommendation for accommodations
- medications currently used

Documentation must contain the printed and signed name of a physician, psychologist, rehabilitation counselor, social worker or any authority who is qualified or certified to assess the disability and is not related to the student.

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga's Office for Students with Disabilities reserves the right to request additional and up-dated documentation. All documents are regarded with strict confidentiality. No documents will be released to any internal or external individual, department or agency without the written permission of the student or the student's guardian. On occasion, statistical information may be distributed to federal, state and/or local legal or auditing authorities.