Guidelines for Documenting Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

Students seeking support services from Students with Disabilities Services (SDS) on the basis of a previously diagnosed Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD) must submit documentation that verifies their eligibility under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act. **The documentation must describe a disabling condition, which is defined by the presence of substantial limitations in one or more major life activities.** Merely submitting evidence of a diagnosis, and/or a discrepancy between ability and achievement on the basis of a single subtest score is not sufficient to warrant academic accommodations. Similarly, nonspecific diagnoses, such as individual “learning styles,” “learning differences,” “academic problems,” “attention problems,” and “test difficulty/anxiety” in and of themselves do not constitute a disability. The guidelines below are intended to provide guidance for the assessment process, including the areas that must be assessed in order for SDS staff to make appropriate decisions. Examples of specific tests that may be used within each area are available upon request. A verification form is also available to provide guidance in the assessment process. Please do not hesitate to contact SDS at (813) 974-4309 if you have any questions.

If documentation is not available or is older than 5 years, please contact SDS and request an in-person meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss possible eligibility for services including history of accommodations and documentation of options.

While it is recognized that psychological testing alone does not justify an AD/HD diagnosis, such testing is considered an important part of establishing the impact of the disorder on learning and determining appropriate accommodations. It is also essential in determining the presence or absence of other conditions that frequently co-occur with the disorder, which may be of relevance in the classroom. Comprehensive psychoeducational or neuropsychological evaluations may be required to support specific accommodation requests. Evaluators should not be related to the individual being assessed.

At a minimum, all documentation in support of an AD/HD should include the following information:

**1. DSM-IV or ICD Diagnosis (text and code) and information concerning co-morbidity**

In order to establish a history of the condition and recency of evaluation.

   a. Date of diagnosis.

   b. Date of last contact. Accommodations are based on an assessment of the current nature and impact of the disability. In addition, depending on the nature of the disability, evaluations may need to be updated on a semester-by-semester or yearly basis.

**2. Evaluation:** A list of questionnaires, interviews, and observations used to identify the AD/HD. A summary should include information regarding the onset, longevity, and severity of the symptoms as well as treatment history including medication.

**3. Functional Limitations:** Information concerning the impact of the AD/HD on major life activities as well as the functional limitations in the educational setting. Again, factors to consider include the severity, frequency, and pervasiveness of symptoms.
4. **Accommodations**: History of accommodations. (Optional) Suggested recommendations, modifications and/or accommodations.

**General Guidelines for all Disabilities**

It is important to recognize that accommodation needs can change over time and are not always identified during the initial diagnostic process. A prior history of accommodation, without demonstration of current need, does not in and of itself warrant provision of a like accommodation.

SDS will make the final determination as to whether appropriate and reasonable accommodations are warranted and can be provided to the individual.

In addition to documentation as described above, transfer students should provide written verification of accommodations received (and dates served) from the previously attended school(s).

*The diagnostic report must include the name and title, and license number of the evaluator. A verification form is available to assist in the documentation process.*

*All documentation submitted to SDS is considered confidential.*

All documentation can be mailed or faxed to:

University of South Florida  
Students with Disabilities Services  
4202 E. Fowler Ave., SVC 1133  
Tampa, FL 33620  
Fax: (813) 974-7337