

Documentation Guidelines for Mental Health Disorders

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, individuals with disabilities are protected from discrimination and may be entitled to reasonable accommodations and rights of equal access to programs and services. A diagnosis of a disorder/condition alone does not automatically qualify an individual for accommodations under the ADAAA. To establish that an individual is covered under the law, the documentation must explain how the disability substantially limits one or more major life activities and supports the request for services, accommodations, academic adjustments, and/or auxiliary aids.

Students who wish to request academic accommodations based on a mental health disorder must submit documentation from a licensed professional who is qualified to evaluate and diagnose psychiatric and psychological disorders. Information about licensure/certification, as well as the area of specialization, employment, and state or province in which the individual practices should be clearly stated in the documentation. The documentation should be in English and must be typed on the provider's letterhead. It