

GUIDELINES FOR DOCUMENTATION OF PSYCHIATRIC DISABILITIES

Note: The Kansas Association of Higher Education and Disability has developed standards for documentation of a Psychiatric Disability that can be used by post-secondary institutions to determine appropriate accommodations. It is important to note that “psychiatric disabilities” is a generic term used to refer to a variety of conditions involving psychological, emotional, and behavioral disorders and syndromes. The terms psychological disabilities and psychiatric disabilities are used interchangeably in this document. The official source designed to outline the criteria used in making a diagnoses are the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, Fourth Edition* (DSM-IV-TR). Each post-secondary institution in Kansas may adapt these guidelines to fit the unique needs of their own institution in accordance with national standards.

Introduction

Students requesting accommodations or services because of a psychiatric disability are required to submit documentation to determine eligibility in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). A diagnosis of a disorder/condition/syndrome in and of itself does not automatically qualify an individual for accommodations under the law. For students previously diagnosed who have not continuously received medical and educational support, a comprehensive evaluation may be necessary to determine whether academic accommodations are appropriate. To establish that a student is covered under Section 504 and the ADA, the documentation must indicate that

Documentation Requirements

Recommendations for Accommodations

A diagnostic report should include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). A prior history of an accommodation, without a demonstration of a current need, does not in and of itself warrant the provision of similar accommodation. Each accommodation recommended by an evaluator should include a rationale. The evaluation should support the recommendations with specific test results or clinical observations. If an accommodation is not clearly identified in the diagnostic report, WSU will seek clarification and, if necessary, more information, and will make the final determination as to whether appropriate and reasonable accommodations are warranted and can be provided. WSU reserves the right to request reassessment when questions regarding previous assessment or previous service provision arise. Depending on accommodations recommended, additional psycho-educational, neuropsychological or behavioral assessments may be necessary.