UAH Documentation Guidelines for Individuals with Disabilities

Students who are requesting accommodations at the University of Alabama in Huntsville are required to submit documentation under the Americans with Disabilities 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 the right to equal access to programs and services.

General Documentation Guidelines

UAH acknowledges that once a person is diagnosed as having a disability the disability is typically viewed as life-long. While the disability will continue, the severity of the condition and/or how it is impacted in different settings may change over time. Therefore, the purpose of requesting documentation is:

To consider each person individually and to understand if and how the individual is impacted by their disability in a higher education environment in order to make an informed decision about the need for accommodations and services.

In order to determine if a specific accommodation(s) is reasonable and appropriate, the following factors will be considered:

- Clear statement of diagnosis including the DSM-V or ICD-10 diagnostic code
- Diagnosis' impact on functioning
- Accommodation history
- Accommodations being requested
- Observations and interactions with Disability Services Coordinator
- Any other medical or mental health documentation

Accommodation decisions cannot be made until, at a minimum, the application is provided, appropriate documentation is received from the treating or diagnosing provider, and an intake appointment has been conducted.

Definition of a Disability

In order to be eligible for accommodations, an individual must have a mental or physical condition that substantially limits a major life activity. Types of disabilities we serve include (but are not limited to): Blind or Low Vision, Chronic Health Conditions, Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Learning Disabilities, Physical Disabilities, and Psychological Disabilities.

Documentation from External Sources

Appropriate disability accommodations are determined based on recent documentation which may include educational or medical records, and reports and assessments from health care providers and psychologists.

The following information must be submitted:

For All Disabilities: A recent typed, dated, and signed report or letter from an appropriate medical or mental health provider on their letterhead. The letter must include:

- History of the disability
- Description of the current impact and functional limitations of the diagnosis as it relates to meeting various demands of higher education and residential living (academically, socially, emotionally, physically, medically)
- Expected progression or stability of diagnosis
- Additional observations and/or recommendations for appropriate accommodations
- Treating or diagnosing licensed professional's signature and credentials

For All Cognitive Disabilities (Learning Disabilities, conditions or incidents impacting the brain, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Autism, and Developmental Disorders), Please provide one of the following:

- A comprehensive neuropsychological or psychoeducational evaluation that includes aptitude and achievement (preferably one with measures normed for an adult) in order to determine current functional impact and to support accommodations requests
- Rating scales and objective measure of attention (for ADHD)
- Standardized scales of symptoms related to Autism
- A 504 Plan, an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), or a recent typed, dated, and signed letter from an appropriate medical or mental health provider on letterhead may be considered as long as the information provided indicates the impact of the condition and helps identify a connection between the disability and the appropriate accommodation(s) being requested.

For Housing Requests

All requests for housing accommodations must be medically necessary due to the disability. Letters must be provided annually from the student's provider listing the specific housing accommodations needed due to the disability.