

DOCUMENTATION GUIDELINES FOR VISION DISABILITIES

Grays Harbor College
DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)
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Disability Category:

- Vision

Professional Diagnostician(s) to be consulted:

- Ophthalmologist

Guidelines

- Documentation of a disability must be generated by a medical or professional expert in the related field of disability and submitted in writing to Disability Support Services where it will be kept in a separate, confidential file. *(NOTE: A diagnosis of a disorder/condition/syndrome in and of itself does not automatically qualify an individual for accommodations under the ADA, Section 504 or Washington State Law).*
- The definition of legal blindness is vision that can only be corrected to the acuity of 20/200 or higher. Another criterion is peripheral vision measuring 20 degrees or less.
- Students not diagnosed as legally blind AND who have vision issues of tracking, extreme photosensitivity, nystagmus, eyelid muscle issues, or low vision, may also be eligible for accommodations.

Documentation

- Documentation of vision disabilities indicating vision loss is considered to be within the medical domain and require the expertise of a qualified licensed eye care professional. Documentation should include the following (unless the condition is permanent and stable):
 - The date of the most recent visit, diagnosis of the eye disorder, and its pathology specific to this student;
 - A description of the severity of the vision loss and current impact and limitations for the specific student;
 - The inclusion of any medically relevant testing results;
 - A description of the expected progression or stability of the vision loss over time.
 - A description of assistive devices or services currently prescribed or in use and include the effectiveness of these devices or services in an educational setting
 - Suggestions of accommodations for this specific student with supporting evidence may be included.

Please Note: The final determination for providing appropriate accommodations rests with the Disability Support Services Office and Grays Harbor College.