Documentation for Vision Disabilities

Health care providers should submit the following information to Liz West at liz.west@wsu.edu. Documentation may be faxed to 509.358.7983 (confidential fax).

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. However, students not diagnosed as legally blind may be eligible and need accommodations. Other vision issues to consider include but are not limited to tracking, extreme photosensitivity, nystagmus, eyelid muscle issues, or low vision.

Documentation should show current impact of the disability. The following guidelines are provided in the interest of assuring that the evaluation and report are appropriate for documenting eligibility and identifying reasonable accommodations.

Any vision loss evaluation is in the medical domain and requires the expertise of a qualified licensed eye care professional. The documentation should include:

- The date of most recent visit, the pathology of the eye disorder specific to the individual.
- A brief description of the severity of the vision loss, and current impact or limitations.
- Any medically relevant testing results.
- A description of assistive devices or services currently prescribed or in use, including the possible effectiveness of these devices or services in an educational setting.
- A description of the expected progression or stability of the vision loss over time.

Documentation should be from a qualified healthcare provider and include:

- Contact information
- License number
- Signature or electronic signature

Disability and medical information is confidential and is not shared except where disclosure is required by law or is necessary to facilitate legitimate University processes, including granting appropriate accommodations, addressing direct threats, or investigating claims or charges.

Questions or concerns regarding documentation requirements can be directed to Liz West at 509.358.7534 or liz.west@wsu.edu. Documentation may be scanned and emailed to liz.west@wsu.edu or faxed to 509.358.7983 (confidential fax).