

Guidelines for Documentation of Hearing Impairments

Students who are seeking support services from NWFSC's Disability Support Services on the basis of diagnosed hearing impairment are required to submit documentation to verify eligibility under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA as amended in 2008. The professional providing the diagnosis must be qualified to do so. Protection under Section 504 and ADA is based upon documentation of a disability that **currently substantially limits** some major life activity such as learning.

The following guidelines are provided in the interest of assuring that documentation provided is appropriate to verify eligibility and support requests for reasonable accommodations, academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids. The Counselor for Students with Disabilities is available to consult with diagnosticians regarding any of these guidelines.

The report needs to be typed in English on Letterhead, signed, and dated. A doctor's prescription pad note or a school plan such as Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) or 504 plan is not sufficient documentation by itself but may be included and used as part of a more comprehensive evaluative report.

The documentation must be current (within the past three years), and must include:

- Results of an audiogram showing the degree of hearing loss.
- The type of hearing loss (conductive or sensorineural).
- Whether the hearing loss is temporary or permanent, and if it is stable or progressive.
- Whether the condition is mitigated by hearing aids or medication.
- A description of the functional limitation(s) caused by the disability.

Appropriate **reasonable accommodations** and services are individually determined by the Counselor for Students with Disabilities in consultation with the student on the basis of information in the documentation provided.

All documentation is confidential and should be submitted to:

Elizabeth Smith
Counselor of Students with Disabilities
Disability Support Services
Northwest Florida State College
100 College Boulevard
Student Services Center Room 228
Niceville FL 32578
(Telephone and TDD 850 729-6079)
(Fax: 850-729-6893)
Florida Relay Service:
800-955-8770