

ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
DISABILITY SERVICES OFFICE

DOCUMENTATION GUIDELINES
Blind / Low Vision Disability

Ophthalmologists are the primary professionals involved in diagnosis and medical treatment of individuals who are blind or experience low vision. Optometrists provide information regarding the measurement of visual acuity as well as tracking fusion difficulties (including, but not limited to eye movement disorders, inefficiency in using both eyes together, and misalignment of the eyes, lazy eye, focusing problems, visual sensory disorders and motor integration). The diagnostician should be an impartial individual who is not a family member of the student.

The following guidelines are provided to assist the service provider in collaborating with each student to determine appropriate accommodations. Documentation serves as the foundation that legitimizes a student's request for appropriate accommodations. Recommended documentation includes:

1. A clear statement of vision-related disability with supporting numerical description.
2. A summary of assessment procedures and evaluation instruments used to make the diagnosis and a summary of evaluation results, including standardized or percentile scores.
3. Present symptoms that meet criteria for diagnosis.
4. Medical information relating to the student's needs and the status of the individual's vision (static or changing) and its impact on the demands of the academic program.
5. Narrative or descriptive text providing both quantitative and qualitative information about the student's abilities that might be helpful in understanding the student's profile, including the use of corrective lenses and ongoing visual therapy (if appropriate).
6. Suggestions of reasonable accommodations that might be appropriate at the post-secondary level are encouraged. These recommendations should be supported by the diagnosis.

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