

Documentation Guidelines  
For  
**Physical Disabilities and Systemic Illnesses**

(Includes but is not limited to: Mobility Impairments, Multiple Sclerosis, Cerebral Palsy, Chemical Sensitivities, Spinal Cord Injuries, Cancer, AIDS, Muscular Dystrophy, Spinal Bifida)

Any physical disability and systematic illness are considered to be in the medical domain and require the expertise of a physician, including a neurologist, psychiatrist or other medical specialist with experience and expertise in the area for which accommodations are being requested. 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. Recommended documentation includes:

1. A clear statement of the medical diagnosis of the physical disability illness;
2. Documentation for eligibility should be current, preferably within the last three years; (the age of acceptable documentation is dependent upon the disabling condition, the current status of the student and the student's request for accommodations);
3. A summary of assessment procedures and evaluation instruments used to make the diagnosis, including evaluation results and standardized scores if applicable;
4. A description of present symptoms that meet the criteria for diagnosis;
5. Medical information relating to the student's needs to include the impact of medication on the student's ability to meet the demands of the postsecondary environment;
6. Most importantly, in order to determine appropriate and effective accommodations, please describe the significant impact of this disability on any major life activities ("functional limitations" as described by the ADA. Limitations must be significant to be defined as a legal disability.

Further assessment by an appropriate professional may be required if co-existing learning disabilities or other disabling conditions are indicated. The student and the Disability Specialist at the University of Denver Disability Services Program collaboratively determine appropriate accommodations.