



St. George's University

Academic Accommodations: Guidelines for Low Vision

Students who want to request accommodations at SGU must provide comprehensive documentation of their disorder to the Student Accessibility and Accommodation Services (SAAS) office. A diagnosis alone is not sufficient to identify what accommodations are reasonable or equitable for a student. Evidence as to the extent to which the disorder currently impairs academic and other major life activities is necessary to establish eligibility. Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you have any questions.

These documentation guidelines are provided to assist you and your medical provider with the necessary information required in order for you to be considered for accommodations. An ophthalmologist, optometrist, or other qualified professional should make the diagnosis and complete the appropriate documentation.

Documentation for low vision should include the following information:

1. **Diagnosis:** A clear statement of the vision-related disability and supporting numerical description including visual acuity with and without correction should be provided.
 - **Date of initial diagnosis:** Relevant developmental and historical data.
2. **Date of last clinical contact:** Because the impact of a sight-related disability may change over time, current evaluation can be critical for providing reasonable accommodations. Depending on the nature of the disability, updated evaluations may be requested.
3. **Functional Limitations:** The nature, severity and duration of the condition should be addressed. The documentation should detail how the individual's current symptoms affect daily skills (academic, social, etc.). Since reasonable accommodations are based on the current impact of the disability, the documentation must address current level of functioning.
4. **Medications:** Information on medication side effects is useful and may be considered in accommodation decisions
5. **Recommendations:** A rationale should be given for each recommended accommodation. Due to the nature of an academic environment, SAAS will make the final determination as to whether appropriate and reasonable accommodations are warranted and can be provided to the individual.

All reports should be on letterhead, typed, dated, and signed, and otherwise legible. The name, title, and professional credentials of the evaluator, including information about license or certification must be included. Evaluators should not be related to the individual being assessed.

The documentation provided by the student is considered confidential in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). However, there are instances when student documentation must be released without consent on a need to know basis.

Students are encouraged to email documentation in pdf format to SAAS at dosaa@sgu.edu.

Office of the Dean of Students
Student Accessibility and Accommodation Services
University Centre, Grenada, West Indies
Phone: 473-444-4483 Fax: 473-444-2823 E-mail: dos@sgu.edu