

Visual Impairment Documentation

A student has requested support services from the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at SUNY Geneseo in regards to a visual impairment. To be eligible for disability support, ODS guidelines require that students provide documentation of the condition and how it impacts his/her access to learning or other major life activities.

These disorders can be divided into two major categories: blindness and low vision. Blindness is the absence of vision although there may be light and/or color perception. Low vision is generally defined as a visual acuity, in the better eye and with correction, of 20/70 or less. Conditions affecting vision include, but are not limited to, eye disease, structural abnormalities, color blindness, cataracts, and systemic diseases such as diabetes, strabismus, myopia and loss of visual field.

Professionals recommended to provide documentation include optometrists, ophthalmologists, and physicians. Documentation should be printed on letterhead that lists the Name, Profession, License Number, Office Address, Phone, Fax, and Email of the Certifying Professional. The letter must include all of the information requested below; if this information is not provided, services may be delayed as ODS obtains clarification. Please call 585-245-5112 if you have questions. Documentation may be faxed to 585-245-5091, attached to an email (disabilityservices@geneseo.edu), or it may be mailed to the address at the bottom of this page. ODS welcomes any additional documentation that is pertinent to providing academic and programmatic access for the student.

Documentation adequate to establish eligibility for services must include:

- A written statement of diagnosis
- Near and distance visual acuities with correction
- If visual fields are affected, documentation must include a copy of visual field testing results
- Expected progression or stability of the condition
- Information regarding functional limitations and possible impact in an academic environment (e.g. reading, viewing blackboards and PowerPoints, mobility, etc.)
- Reports from any adaptive technology or low vision evaluations that have been completed