

Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Verification for Students

The University of Montana Western assures program access to students with attention-deficit disorders with or without hyperactivity (AD/HD). Otherwise qualified students may request an auxiliary aid or service, academic adjustment, and/or other accommodation from UMW due to AD/HD. Before accommodations are granted, Montana Western requires comprehensive documentation of a disability and its impact on learning.

In order to consider the provision of reasonable accommodations, for students with AD/HD, University policy requires that current and comprehensive verification of the disability be provided by a qualified professional. The qualified professional's statement must be within 3 to 5 years prior to the date of the most recent request from Montana Western. The professionals conducting the assessment and rendering the diagnosis must be qualified to do so. The following professional(s) would generally be considered qualified to evaluate and diagnose ADHD provided they have comprehensive training in the differential diagnosis of ADHD and direct experience with people with AD/HD: Psychologists, neuropsychologists, psychiatrists, and other relevantly trained medical doctors. It may be appropriate to use a clinical team approach consisting of a variety of educational, medical, and counseling professionals with training in the evaluation of ADHD in adolescents and adults. Diagnoses documented by family members will not be accepted.

The documentation provided must include information that diagnoses AD/HD, describes the effect of the AD/HD in an educational setting, and indicates the severity and longevity of the condition, and offers recommendations for necessary and appropriate auxiliary aids or services, academic adjustments or other accommodations. Montana Western includes information gathered in consultation with the student when making determinations and recommendations for reasonable accommodations.

The University of Montana Western adheres to the civil rights definition of disability. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, an individual with a disability eligible for program modifications means any person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. "Major life activities" includes caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, sitting, standing, lifting and working, as well as mental and emotional processes such as thinking, concentrating and interacting with others. Disability alone isn't enough to mandate accommodations. Students must provide evidence that the disability causes a functional limitation which impacts access to University programs.

The checklist below is intended to assist students and professionals in gathering sufficient documentation for submission to Montana Western.

Checklist for Documentation of Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

To facilitate the gathering of such critical information, please provide a comprehensive diagnostic report that responds to the following checklist, along with your written authorization to contact the diagnostician, to the Dean of Students, Nicole Hazelbaker at:

Student Affairs Office
750 E. Cornell ST.
Dillon, MT 59725

The phone number at Student Affairs is 406-683-7565.

The diagnostic report must contain:

- Specific diagnosis and date of onset; and
- Severity of the disability: Mild, moderate, or severe; and

- Date of diagnosis and date of last contact with student; and
- Complete evidence of AD/HD and of a substantial limitation to major life activities; and
- Summary of the student's educational, medical, and family history that may relate to AD/HD; and
- Symptoms which meet the criteria for the DSM-IV diagnosis; and
- List of the functional limitations caused by the AD/HD which may affect programs in higher education; and
- Recommendations for necessary and appropriate accommodations to equalize the student's educational opportunities at the University of Montana Western such as auxiliary aids and services, academic adjustments, and other reasonable program modifications; and
- Other information relevant to this student's academic adjustment; and
- Signature and contact information of diagnostician including mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address.