

Psychiatric/Psychological Disabilities Verification for Students

The University of Montana Western assures program access to students with psychiatric/psychological disabilities. Otherwise qualified students may request an auxiliary aid or service, academic adjustment, and/or other accommodation due to a psychiatric/psychological disability. Before accommodations are granted, Montana Western requires comprehensive documentation of a disability and its impact on learning.

In order to be eligible to receive accommodations for a psychiatric/psychological disability, University policy requires that current and comprehensive verification of the disability be provided by a qualified professional. To be considered current, the qualified professional's statement must be written no more than one year prior to its presentation to Montana Western. Qualified professionals may include a psychiatrist, psychologist, neuropsychologist, medical doctor, clinical social worker, licensed counselor, and rehabilitation personnel. Diagnoses documented by family members will not be accepted.

The documentation must provide a diagnosis, descriptions of the effect of the disabilities in an educational setting, severity and longevity of the condition, and 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 mental and emotional processes such as learning, thinking, concentrating, interacting with others, and caring for oneself. Disability alone is not enough to mandate accommodations. Students must provide evidence that the disability causes a functional limitation which impacts access to University programs. Accommodations are granted based on the functional limitations specified in the documentation.

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

Checklist for Documentation of a Psychiatric/Psychological Disability

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 with the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder, Fourth Edition (DSM-IV) or the International Classification of Diseases Manual, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) classification
- Severity of the disability: Mild, moderate, or severe
- Date of diagnosis
- History of clinical contact with student including the date of last clinical contact

- Approximate duration and prognosis of the disability
- Relevant history of the disability (e.g. date of onset, previous hospitalizations)
- Statement of how medications impact the student's functioning in an academic setting
- 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
- Other information relevant to the student's academic adjustment and
- The professional's name, title, certification/license, mailing address, telephone number, e-mail address, and signature.