

## Vanderbilt University - Low Vision or Blindness Documentation Guidelines

Students requesting accommodations on the basis of low vision or blindness disability must provide an ocular assessment performed and signed by a professional who has undergone comprehensive training and has relevant experience in the field, such as an ophthalmologist or an optometrist. Documentation must include, but is not restricted to, the following:

- Specific Clinical diagnosis: (blind, partial vision, low vision) and level of visual loss (moderate, severe, profound),
- Date of onset of the visual impairment and whether it is progressive or non-progressive or any secondary complications,
- Snellen Chart (visual acuity measurements),
- Visual field (central loss and peripheral loss measurements),
- Color measurement (ability to discriminate colors, as well as, light and dark),
- Recommendations for prescriptive treatments,
- List of medications prescribed, if any, and potential impact on learning,
- Suggestions as to how the functionally limiting manifestations of the visual condition(s) may be reasonably accommodated,
- A summary of the medical condition and evidence of a substantial limitation to learning or other major life activity. It must include the degree to which the limitation impacts the individual in the learning context for which accommodations are being requested (such as the implications for reading, mobility, seeing the black board, etc).
- Documentation must reflect the current impact of the visual disability (The diagnostic report is recommended to have been performed within the last six months).

*Copies of an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) or a 504 Plan alone are not acceptable documentation. Prior accommodations in an educational setting do not necessarily warrant the provision of current accommodations.*

### **Submission of Documentation and Questions**

Documentation should be mailed to the Disability Program Coordinator, Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, & Disability Services Dept., Vanderbilt University, PMB 401809, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, TN 37240-1809 or fax to (615) 343-0671. Questions should be directed to (615) 322-4705.

### **Accommodations and Services**

The final determination of appropriate accommodations, auxiliary aids and services rest with Vanderbilt University's Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, & Disability Services Department's Disability Services Program, in consultation with individual academic and non-academic programs.

### **Confidentiality**

All information obtained in diagnostic and medical records will be maintained and used in accordance with applicable confidentially requirements.