

MOUNTAIN EMPIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Disability Support Services

Documentation Requirements for Students with Vision Impairment

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, individuals with disabilities are guaranteed certain protections and rights to equal access to programs and services.

*The following requirements are provided in the interest of assuring that students with vision impairments provide appropriate documentation to verify eligibility and to support requests for accommodations, academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids.

I. A Qualified Professional Must Conduct the Evaluation

The report should include the name, title and professional credentials of the evaluator, including information about licensure and/or specialization.

II. Testing must be current

Although visual impairment may be life-long, the severity of the condition may change over time. Testing that was conducted in elementary school will not include recommendations that are appropriate for college. Therefore, it is in the student's best interest to provide recent and appropriate documentation.

III. Necessary Components of the Evaluation

- A. A Vision Assessment or evaluation from an ophthalmologist that provides a primary diagnosis/pathology with visual acuities and/or visual field restrictions.
- B. A low-vision evaluation of residual function, when appropriate.
- C. Medical information relating to the student's needs and status of the student's vision (static or changing) and its impact on the demands of a college program.
- D. A list of assistive technology and/or adaptive equipment currently being used, including a description of the equipment, its brand name and model.

Please note that a history of an accommodation, does not in and of itself warrant the provision of accommodations.

*This document was adapted from the Educational Testing Service (ETS) website (www.ets.org). The original document was developed by a group of professionals established by the Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD).