

Cedarville University Disability Services
Documentation Requirements for Academic Accommodations
for Mental Health Disabilities

Consideration for academic accommodations through Cedarville University Disability Services requires registration through electronic application (Cedarville.edu/disabilities) as well as the submission of verifying documentation that substantiates and describes the impact of the disability. The documentation must clearly demonstrate that the student's mental impairment is substantial (in accordance with the definition of a disability under federal law), that the impairment causes a limitation on the student's functionality, and that there is a distinct relationship between the limitation and the accommodation request.

Requirements: Psychological Testing

The student should provide a current diagnostic report that details the results of a psychological evaluation process, typically a psychoeducational or neuropsychological evaluation. Testing should provide a current picture of the impact of the disability (generally 2-3 years). The complete evaluation should be designed to include the appropriate combination of tests that will clearly define the student's diagnosis and delineate the functional limitations of the disability. Because of the changing nature of mental health conditions, the report should be no more than one year old. The evaluation must be conducted by a credentialed, licensed professional such as a psychologist, a psychiatrist, or a neurologist who is qualified to administer such assessments in adolescents and adults.

The diagnosis of a disorder or submission of an evaluation does not automatically qualify a student for accommodations. The report must support the student's request for specific accommodations in order for the accommodations to be considered. While recommendations made by the evaluator are not binding, they are helpful for thorough consideration of the student's accommodation request. The name, credentials, and contact information of the evaluator must be clearly specified on the letter or report that details the psychological assessment results.

Documentation that is incomplete, does not fulfill the stated requirements, or does not support the student's accommodation request will delay the process until adequate documentation is obtained.

Terminology

Psychoeducational evaluation—A testing and assessment process designed to target mental functioning in relation to academic ability. The assessment is designed to evaluate an individual's intellectual ability and academic achievement. Can assess cognitive ability, information processing ability, executive function, concentration, memory, focus, and emotional and behavioral functioning.

Neuropsychological evaluation—A comprehensive evaluation that includes tests and psychological assessments to evaluate how the brain functions in relation to learning and behavior. Can measure abilities in areas such as reasoning, academic skills, memory, attention/focus, executive function, problem-solving; can assess mood disturbances, social-emotional or behavioral functioning, and neurological conditions.