

Antelope Valley College
Office for Students with Disabilities
Guidelines for Acceptable Disability Verification Documentation

A student with a disability(ies) is a person enrolled at a community college who has a verified impairment(s) that limits one or more major life activities, which imposes an educational limitation. Individuals qualifying for services through the Office for Students with Disabilities will satisfy the Americans with Disability Act of 1990's definition of disability as stated in section 12102, and will provide the appropriate documentation which will be specified below with each disability.

Important: Documentation should be no more than three to five years old and should come from an individual's primary treating physician, or from an agency that would have such documents in their possession.

Mobility Impairment- Defined as any orthopedic or physical impairment that causes a serious limitation in locomotion or motor function in the educational environment.

Visual Impairment- Total or partial loss of sight that adversely affects a student's educational performance.

Hearing Impairment- Total deafness or hearing loss so severe that a student is impaired in processing information through hearing without amplification.

Speech Impairment- One or more speech and language disorders of voice, articulation, rhythm and / or the receptive and expressive processes of language that limits the quality, accuracy, intelligibility or fluency of producing the sounds that comprise spoken language.

- **Verification For All of the Above:** Documentation by physician or licensed professional, or referring agency that obtains its verification from a physician or licensed professional.

Learning Disability- A persistent condition of a presumed neurological impairment. This dysfunction continues despite instruction in standard classroom situations. Learning disabilities are exhibited by the following: average to above average intellectual ability, exhibits processing deficits, exhibits aptitude-achievement discrepancy(ies), and measurable achievement in an instructional or employment setting.

- **Verification:** Documented testing by Learning Disability Specialist or licensed psychologist, or from referring agency that obtains verification from a Learning Disability Specialist or licensed psychologist. Providing an Individual Education Plan (IEP) from high school that documents a "Specific Learning Disability" may also serve as verification.

Acquired Brain Injury- An acquired injury to the brain caused by external or internal trauma, resulting in total or partial functional disability that adversely affects or limits a student's educational performance by impairing any of the following: cognition, language, speech, memory, attention, sensory/perceptual/motor abilities, psychosocial behavior, or physical functions.

- **Verification:** Documentation from a physician or referring agency that obtains its verification from a physician.

Developmentally Delayed Learner (DDL)- Defined as learning deficits resulting from below average intellectual functioning that adversely affects educational performance, existing concurrently with measurable potential for achievement in educational and/ or employment settings.

- **Verification:** Verification by licensed psychologist or DDL specialist using documentation from a referring agency that obtained verification from a licensed psychologist.

Psychological Disability (including ADD-ADHD)- a persistent psychological or psychiatric disorder, emotional or mental illness that adversely affects educational performance. Psychological disability is a condition which: a) is listed in the current revision of the American Psychiatric Association Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM), and is coded as Axis I or II as moderate or severe, b) reflects a psychiatric or psychological condition that interferes with a major life activity, and c) poses a functional limitation in the educational setting.

- **Verification:** Documentation or report by a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist, or by documentation of a referring agency, if its verification was done by a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist. Verification needs to include the DSM disorder code or name of the disorder plus a description of the disorder as moderate to severe.

"Other" disabilities- To include conditions having limited strength, vitality, or alertness due to chronic or acute health problems. Examples are environmental disabilities, heart conditions, tuberculosis, nephritis, sickle cell anemia, hemophilia, leukemia, epilepsy, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), diabetes, etc.

- **Verification:** Documentation from a physician or licensed professional, or a referring agency that obtained verification from a physician or licensed professional.