



DEFINITION OF TERMS RELATED TO DISABILITY SERVICES FOR STUDENTS:

Disability:

- Having a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of a person's major life activities
- Has appropriate records and documentation of said impairment

Qualified Disabled Student:

- A disabled person who meets the academic and technical standards requisite to admission and participation in the educational program or activity

Documentation:

- Documentation from an appropriate professional that verifies and reflects the student's present level of disability/impairment and how said disability/impairment reflects the student's needs in a University setting.
- Documentation should be dated no more than 6 months prior to the date of the request accommodation(s) for psychiatric disabilities and no more than three years prior to the date of the request for accommodation(s) for all other disabilities
- Documentation must be provided by the student
- West Coast University has discretion to determine what type of professional documentation is necessary, and this may vary depending on the nature and extent of the disability and the accommodation, auxiliary aid and/or services requested

Verification:

- Information in the documentation (definition above) that confirms a disability or impairment exists
- Verification must be provided by the student
- Costs associated with verification will be borne by the student
- Additional verification may be requested and required
- However, if the University believes it is appropriate to obtain a second professional opinion concerning the nature and extent of the disability, the University will bear the cost of obtaining that second opinion not covered by the third party payer

Accommodation:

- Modifications to the course, program or educational requirements as are necessary and appropriate so that such requirements do not discriminate or have the effect of discriminating on the basis of a disability
- Adjustments made that do not alter the essential nature of the course or relevant academic program

Reasonable:

- In higher education, determining what is “reasonable” is easier to do when using the three guidelines that define what is “not reasonable”.
- Adjustments and/or accommodations that alter the essential nature of the course or relevant academic program would be considered unreasonable
- Adjustments and/or accommodations that poses a danger and/or threat to the health and safety of the student and/or others would be considered unreasonable
- Adjustments and/or accommodations would be considered unreasonable if they pose an undue financial or administrative burden

Professional:

- A licensed or professional health care provider, approved by West Coast University, who is qualified to diagnose, assess and/or treat a disability.

Essential Nature of the Course or Relevant Academic Program:

- ADA does not require institutions to provide accommodations that fundamentally alter the essential nature of the course or relevant academic program.
- Reference the Davis decision, an applicable case law, for specific language that identifies “essential”