Documentation Guidelines for Autism Spectrum Disorder

To receive accommodations for an Autism diagnosis in a university setting, students should submit documentation that sufficiently explains the nature of their issue and why specific kinds of accommodation are important. Documentation is to be completed by the appropriate evaluator. For an Autism diagnosis, documentation should be completed by one of the following professionals: psychiatrist, licensed clinical psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, etc. Documentation should contain psycho-educational or neuropsychological evaluations in addition to an IEP or 504 plan from high school.

1. Specific diagnosis as per the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM -V or DSM-IV) and date of onset.

2. Current functional limitations on major life activities resulting from the Autism spectrum disorder to include but not be limited to: communication or language skills, social interaction, restricted, repetitive and/or stereotyped patterns of behavior and activities, sensory functioning and sensitivity to environmental conditions, and motor planning.

3. Evidence to support the functional limitations. This statement may include aptitude testing, standardized tests of language skills, clinical and teacher observations, and standardized scales of symptoms related to autism.

4. Recommendations for accommodations related to function and their rationale should be stated and any other strategies or services that may benefit the individual in a higher education environment.

5. Signature, License/Certification, and contact information of diagnostician including mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address.