

## WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY GUIDELINES FOR DOCUMENTING A LEARNING DISABILITY

In order to standardize the process for requesting accommodations, Wake Forest has adopted the Learning Disability documentation guidelines that are generally in agreement with the guidelines followed by the Educational Testing Service. These guidelines can be found by following the Resources for Test Takers with Disabilities and Health-related Needs Link found on the ETS website, <https://www.ets.org/disabilities/documentation/>

Students and parents are urged to refer professional evaluators to these guidelines before submission of documentation for an accommodation request. Essential features of these guidelines are:

- **A qualified professional must conduct the evaluation.** The following professionals would generally be qualified to evaluate and diagnose Learning Disability provided that they have comprehensive training in the differential diagnosis of LD in the adolescent or adult population: licensed clinical, school and neuropsychologists, psychiatrists and other relevantly trained medical doctors.
- **Up-to-date documentation.** For undergraduate students, the diagnostic evaluation must have been completed within 3 years. For graduate students, the evaluation can be within 5 years if on adult measures usually administered at age 16 years or older.
- **Relevant testing information must be provided.** Neuropsychological or psychoeducational assessment is important in determining the current impact of the disorder on the student's ability to function in academic settings. Cognitive tests, achievement tests and rating scales should complement clinical interviewing to aid with differential diagnosis and establishing a "substantial limitation" in the major life activity of learning. An individually-administered intelligence scale, preferably the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS IV or latest edition); an individually-administered, comprehensive test of academic achievement such as the Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Achievement or the Wechsler Individual Achievement Test (latest editions); subtest, scale, and total scores from all tests administered, as well as an interpretation of the results should be included.
- Students with Learning Disabilities who anticipate special academic needs should contact the Learning Assistance Center & Disability Services as soon as possible. Because of the amount of time required to respond to requests for accommodations, it is strongly recommended that, when possible, students **submit documentation of their disabilities at least two months** before matriculating to WFU. If the information is not received before matriculation, processing time may be lengthier given the volume of requests received after the semester begins.

Documentation should be sent to:

Learning Assistance Center & Disability Services  
Wake Forest University  
Box 7283  
Winston-Salem, NC 27109  
Email: [lacds@wfu.edu](mailto:lacds@wfu.edu)  
Fax: (336)758-1991 attn: LAC-DS

Records are kept confidential per LAC-DS policy (on website) but are accessible as needed by LAC-DS and Student Health Services staff as part of the accommodations process.