



## Muhlenberg College Office of Disability Services Documentation Guidelines

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### Rehabilitated Drug Addiction/Alcoholism

 Muhlenberg College students with diagnosed disabilities are eligible for protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) (revised in 2008) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended). The ADA Amendments Act 2008 retains the definition of a "disability" as (a) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of an individual; (b) a record of such an impairment; or (c) being regarded as having such an impairment.

Students requesting accommodations, auxiliary aids, and/or services based on a diagnosis of Rehabilitated Drug Addition/Alcoholism, are required to submit documentation by an appropriately qualified professional. Professionals who are qualified for diagnosing, treating, and providing documentation for individuals who have been rehabilitated for drug addiction or alcoholism may include physicians with a specialty in addiction, clinical psychologists, psychiatrists, and licensed mental health professionals or State Health Department certified addiction counselors who are supervised by psychologists or psychiatrists. The diagnostician should be an impartial individual who is not a family member nor in a dual relationship with the student.

Documentation serves as the foundation that legitimizes a student's request for appropriate accommodations and serves as a springboard for requests for accommodations and services. The currency of acceptable documentation is dependent upon the disabling condition, the current status of the student, an assessment of the significant impact to major life functions. The term "qualified individual with a disability" does not include any individual who is currently engaging in the illegal use of drugs or alcohol.

#### **The Evaluation/Report must include the following information:**

1. The DSM-V diagnosis, a clear statement of successful completion of a supervised drug/alcohol rehabilitation program, and a dated statement attesting to compliance with appropriate post rehabilitation treatment. In clear, direct language, the report must identify the substantial limitation of a major life activity;
2. A summary of assessment procedures and evaluation instruments used to make the diagnosis;
3. A summary of qualitative and quantitative information that supports the diagnosis;
4. Medical information relating to the student's condition should include the impact of medication and treatment plan (if prescribed) on the student's ability to meet the demands of the postsecondary environment;
5. Any suggestions of reasonable accommodations that might be appropriate at the postsecondary level should be based on significant functional limitations and should be supported by the documentation.

Further assessment by an appropriate professional may be required if co-existing other disabling conditions are indicated. Appropriate accommodations are collaboratively determined by the student and the Office of Disability Services professionals.