



Policy Concerning Medical Housing Requests

One of Anna Maria College's unique features is our small, close-knit campus, which fosters a sense of shared community. We understand students may feel challenged by adjusting to group living, especially if they have a medical condition or disability that complicates their daily living. Therefore, the College has taken steps to address medical needs that may impact a student's choice to live on campus.

Special note regarding mental health conditions: Adjustment issues, anxiety, and other difficult emotions are to be expected when living away from familiar surroundings. Anna Maria College seeks to support students through this adjustment period through active residence life programming, as well as through health and counseling services on campus. There are very few instances where mental health diagnoses preclude on-campus residential living. In fact, choosing to live alone can reinforce anxious and depressive symptoms through avoidance. Students are expected to build coping and communication skills and develop a sense of acceptance of our community members' needs and differences.

Disability Documentation Guidelines

In order to receive disability related accommodations and/or services from Anna Maria College, students are required to submit documentation of their disability to verify eligibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Disability Defined

For these purposes, disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities include, but are not limited to, caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working.

Non-qualifying conditions

Temporary, non-chronic impairments of short duration with little or no residual effects that usually will not substantially limit a major life activity: common cold, seasonal or common influenza, a sprained joint, minor and non-chronic gastrointestinal disorders, a broken bone expected to heal completely, appendicitis, and seasonal allergies are usually not qualifying conditions. In some cases, mental health issues are not a qualifying disability.

Eligibility Determination

Three primary questions help to determine whether an individual has a disability under ADA:

- Does the individual have an impairment?
- Does the impairment limit any major life activities?
- Is the limitation on any major life activity substantial?

So, not only must a person have an impairment that limits one or more major life activities, but the limitation of at least one major life activity must be “substantial.” An impairment “substantially limits” a major life activity if the person cannot perform a major life activity the way an average person in the general population can, or is significantly restricted in the condition, manner or duration of doing so.

Eligibility for reasonable accommodations is established through a variety of information sources including, but not limited to, the student’s self-report, observation and interaction with the student and documentation from external sources including health care providers and educational professionals.

Documentation Guidelines

By itself, a medical diagnosis does not establish a need or an entitlement to accommodations under Section 504 or ADA. Therefore, the documentation required extends beyond the medical diagnosis and encompasses the key elements of a person's disability.

The following guidelines are offered to assist students in providing documentation to establish their eligibility for reasonable accommodation. Ideally, documentation:

- Is on letterhead and issued by a medical or other qualified/credentialed professional whose credentials match the disability being evaluated; comprehensive training with regard to the specific disability being addressed; prescription pad notes are not acceptable
- Contains a specific diagnostic statement and corresponding diagnostic code (either DSM-5 or ICD-10)
- Is comprehensive to establish clear evidence of a substantial impact on one or more major life activities; the degree to which (severity) the impairment limits each major life activity, and the expected duration should be addressed
- Offers a description of prior accommodations, mitigating measures, therapeutic interventions and compliance
- Recommends a complete description of the desired accommodation and discussion of why it is necessary, including why the student’s needs cannot be met without the accommodation and the consequences of not receiving it
- Is recent enough to assess the current impact and functional limitations posed in a college setting

Types of Documentation

Health and Counseling Services will review and consider all types of documentation submitted. Types of documentation that may be helpful include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Educational, psychological evaluations (e.g., psycho-educational or neuropsychological evaluation)
- Letters created by healthcare providers on professional letterhead. Please note: while Anna Maria College's Health and Counseling Services assists students with referrals to providers for matters impacting behavioral and emotional health, it does not provide documentation to support requests for accommodation.
- Documents that reflect accommodation history, such as an Individual Education Program (IEP), Section 504 Plan

Note: Students submitting clinical documentation in support of their request should ensure their provider has included contact information and, whenever possible, licensing information with their written supporting information. Health and Counseling providers will verify an active license and practice location for all referring providers.

Residence Life will work with students once all required documentation is submitted and reviewed. Students may be placed on a wait list due to availability issues. Medical singles are not immediately guaranteed despite meeting requirements.