

# Systemic Disorders

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## DISABILITY DOCUMENTATION

### Definition of Disability

An individual must demonstrate that his/her condition meets the definition of a disability under the Rehabilitation Act, 1973 and/or the Americans with Disability Act (ADA), 1990. The ADA defines a disability as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

Substantially limits under ADA refers to significant restriction as to the condition, manner, or duration under which an individual can perform a particular major life activity as compared to most people.

Whether a condition is substantially limiting to support an accommodation request is a decision made by qualified professional(s) based upon multiple sources of information.

A clinical diagnosis is not synonymous with a disability. The specific symptoms that present should be stated in the documentation. Evidence that these symptoms are associated with substantial impairment in a major life activity is required for provision of accommodations. A detailed description of current substantial limitation in the academic environment is essential to identify appropriate academic

## Systemic Disorders

Systemic disabilities are conditions affecting one or more of the body's systems, including the respiratory, immunological, neurological, circulatory, digestive systems. Systemic disabilities are often unstable therefore, the need for and type of reasonable accommodations may change over time.

- x General documentation guidelines (see above).
- x Description of the history, current symptoms, and severity of the disorder