



## Housing Accommodation Documentation Guidance for Healthcare Providers

### Institutional Context:

The Ohio State University provides a residential living program that includes a requirement for students to live on campus for their first two years. Living on campus offers many advantages and has been proven to enhance students' success at the university. The Ohio State residential program offers a wide variety of rooms, suites, and apartment amenities. Our goal is the inclusion of students with disabilities to fully engage in the residential program and the educational and social opportunities it offers.

Students who are seeking modifications to their housing as an accommodation for a disability must register with Student Life Disability Services (SLDS) to have their request evaluated. This process may require students to submit their personal narrative supporting their request, and a letter from their provider. This letter is meant to confirm diagnoses and provide additional context about the student's disability, the intersection of the disability with a residential environment, and their required treatment. Students with apparent disabilities do not need to complete documentation.

The Student Life Disability Services staff must understand the specific ways in which the student's disability impacts their living environment and experience within the residential program. SLDS does not provide a contract cancellation accommodation; we are charged with identifying on-campus living accommodations that meet the disability needs of our students.

### Content for Letter of Support:

As a clinician, you should be diligent in following your professional training, scope of practice, and ethics. Use your professional judgment regarding the student's health status and related needs. Below is the information the university is looking for when evaluating an individual's accommodation request for on-campus residential living. Please provide a **detailed** letter that includes the following:

1. **Your credentials and how long you have provided care for the student.**
2. **The student's diagnosis(es), date of diagnosis, and relevant treatment as it intersects with a residential environment.**
  - a. Does the student's diagnosis meet the criteria for disability as defined in the ADA?<sup>1</sup>
3. **Provide a detailed description of the student's disability and how it can be impacted by an on-campus residential environment. This should include symptom frequency, severity, and duration.**
4. **Please describe the specific barriers the student experiences, or is likely to experience, within on-campus residential living.**
5. **Your recommendation for modifications to their living environment, including whether it is a beneficial preference or a disability requirement.**
6. **Your signature, digital (timestamped) or wet.**

1 The legal definition of disability is a mental or physical condition that substantially limits a major life activity compared to most people. Substantial in this context is somewhat subjective but means a notable, significant, meaningful limit/difference to the manner in which the individual engages in the activity, the conditions necessary for them to engage in the activity, the duration for which they can engage in the activity or the frequency which they engage in the activity. 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 the proper functioning of major bodily systems.