

## **ADHD Accommodation Requests -- (Refer to: Special Accommodations Form D)**

The following is a brief outline of the information expected in a typical, comprehensive evaluation report written in support of accommodation requests for applicants diagnosed with ADHD. This is based on standard practice for evaluation of ADHD in adults. The evaluator should realize that merely providing a statement that the applicant has been diagnosed with the condition is insufficient. The evaluation should have been completed or updated within the last 3 years.

The comprehensive diagnostic evaluation report should meet the following basic criteria:

1. Must explain full, standard criteria for ADHD determination based on DSM-IV with an explanation of the procedures used to determine these criteria and to rule out other conditions (differential diagnosis). The evaluation must explain in detail the current impact of the condition across environments.
2. The evaluation report must provide evidence that this diagnosis does not rely solely on the self-report of the applicant in establishing the developmental history of ADHD, the current symptoms and the evidence of clinically significant impairment.
3. The evaluation should describe past and current treatments for this condition and the effects of these treatments in ameliorating symptoms.
4. Psychological test results should be presented as necessary to rule out other explanation for the applicant's problems as well as document cognitive deficits associated with the condition.

It is best to supply specific information concerning the applicant's psychosocial background, evidence of impairment across environments (particularly the academic environment), documents reviewed to establish a history of impairment, documents reviewed that indicate beneficial effects of accommodations, etc. The evaluator should realize that a diagnosis is not equivalent to having a disability. A disability is defined as a "substantial limitation in a major life activity." Thus, evaluation reports should pay particular attention to describing objective evidence (review of transcripts, past test scores) indicating that the applicant's treated condition continues to cause a substantial limitation that can be accommodated.