

Remote Attendance Documentation Guidance for Healthcare Providers

The University of New Mexico primarily offers in-person instruction, and most of the university's academic programs have essential in-person components. Remote attendance can be approved as a reasonable accommodation if a student's disability makes them temporarily unable to participate in-person.

Content for Letter of Support

Below is the information the university is looking for in evaluating an individual's accommodation request for remote attendance. Please include the following in your letter of support:

1. Describe your professional relationship with the student on which you are basing your treatment plan (e.g. type of treatment, length/history of relationship).
2. Confirm the student's relevant health conditions that rise to the level of disability.
3. Include a statement of support for remote attendance with an estimated return date for resuming in-person attendance. If you have recommendations for parameters or accommodations to support the student's return to in-person attendance, please share.
4. Describe how attending classes in-person creates a significant disability-related barrier to the student's full and meaningful participation in their academics.

Questions to consider include:

- How is virtual learning necessary and essential for the student to make academic progress toward their degree (rather than preferred, beneficial or optimal)?
- Compared to their peers, what negative impacts will this student face if they are on campus?
- How would remote attendance mitigate these negative impacts?

5. For CDC-recognized COVID-high-risk conditions: Your letter should include a holistic assessment of the student's significant (not speculative) health risks for being on campus. Your assessment should factor in the student's vaccine status as well as the university's vaccine mandate (with >90% vaccinated campus population).