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### Who Is Not Eligible for Accommodations?

Individuals who do not meet the ADA definition of disabled are not eligible for test accommodations. Difficulties not eligible for test accommodations include test anxiety, slow reading without an identified underlying cognitive deficit, English as a second language, and learning difficulties that have not been diagnosed as a medically recognized disability.

### Understanding the Need for Documentation

Although most learning-disabled medical students are all too familiar with the often exhausting process of providing documentation of their disability, you should realize that **applying for USMLE accommodation is different from these previous experiences**. This is because the NBME determines whether an individual is disabled solely on the basis of the guidelines set by the ADA. **Previous accommodation does not in itself justify provision of an accommodation for the USMLE**, so be sure to review the NBME guidelines carefully.

### Getting the Information

The first step in applying for USMLE special accommodations is to read the guidelines carefully, then complete the appropriate request form. Both can be found at [usmle.org/step-exams/test-accommodations](http://usmle.org/step-exams/test-accommodations), or by calling or writing the disability services office:

#### Disability Services

National Board of Medical Examiners  
3750 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-3102  
Phone: (215) 590-9700  
Fax: (215) 590-9422  
Email: [disabilityservices@nbme.org](mailto:disabilityservices@nbme.org)  
[usmle.org/step-exams/test-accommodations](http://usmle.org/step-exams/test-accommodations)

Test accommodation guidelines are the same for US and foreign graduates. Requests and documents can only be submitted by email or fax.

Foreign graduates should contact the ECFMG to obtain information on special accommodations by calling or writing to:

#### ECFMG

3624 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2685  
(215) 386-5900  
[ecfm.org](http://ecfm.org)