

Brief Information on Health Certificates for Students with Disabilities or Chronic Illnesses at Saarland University

The health certificate should contain comprehensible statements by a medical or psychological professional (*preferably* a specialist). It should be titled “Health Certificate for Submission to Saarland University”. The following three aspects should be explained:

1. *Diagnosis, medical history, prognosis*

- Which disability / chronic illness has the student been diagnosed with, and when has it first occurred? How serious is the impairment? Is the existing impairment likely to continue?
- Is the student currently receiving medical treatment / therapy?
- Has the disability / chronic illness ever led to a complete inability to study? If so, it should also be specified, if and when periods of complete inability to study are to be expected in the future (e.g. due to therapies, hospital stays, surgeries, etc.).
- Has the disability / chronic illness ever led to a limited ability to study, or can this be expected in the future? If so, the (expected) time period should be specified (e.g. since the beginning of the student’s studies at university, since spring 2019, also to be expected in the future, etc.)
- If a potential deterioration of the condition is to be expected, this should also be mentioned, and a time period should be specified.

2. *Negative Effects on Academic Performance*

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- Which impairments result from the disability / chronic illness with regards to studies or examinations? (e.g. limited academic performance, pain, writing impairments, difficulty concentrating, etc.)
- In which ways and to what extent does the disability / chronic illness negatively affect the student's academic performance with regards to study and examination achievements?
- If applicable: At what frequency can a partial / complete ability to study be expected? It is also helpful to specify the conditions that may affect the student's ability to study (e.g. "is only able to concentrate / attend lectures or seminars for a maximum of four hours a day").
- If applicable: Point out the necessity to avoid stressful situations that may cause a deterioration of the condition.

3. Compensation for Disadvantages

We ask medical or psychological professionals to provide recommendations for an adequate compensation for disadvantages that result from the disability / chronic illness. Such recommendations are particularly helpful for the examination boards.

Possible measures aimed at compensating for disadvantages include for example:

- Modification of the attendance requirements for specific classes
- Provision of a writing aid or a text-to-speech software
- Extended writing time or extended breaks during exams / extended deadlines for assignments, term papers, or final theses (please indicate the required extra time in percentages)
- If applicable, it is also helpful to indicate whether an extended duration of study is to be expected due to the impairment.

Additional Hints

We require a doctor's certificate, not a detailed medical report! A few lines on the institution's official letterhead with the official stamp, as well as the date, and the doctor's signature are usually sufficient.

An attestation on a prescription pad is usually not sufficient.

If your doctor has any questions, the KSB team will be more than happy to help.