

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES (SAS)

Services for
Students with Disabilities / Medical Conditions

New Faculty Orientation

August 2016



SAS

The office of Student Accessibility Services (SAS) coordinates services and facilitates the provision of academic accommodations for students with disabilities/medical conditions.

Location

Thunder Bay Campus

SC0003

- Tunnel Level between Campus Tech and
Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services Lounge

Orillia Campus

Room # OA 1030

Legal Obligations

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Ontario Human Rights Code

OHRC's guidelines for accommodating post secondary students

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)

One requirement is to create accessible documents. The easiest way to do this is when the document is being written. Resources for preparing accessible documents (word, pdf, etc) are available through the COU Toolkit. (link provided in Resources)

Policy (under review)

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

<http://policies.lakeheadu.ca/policy.php?pid=61>

The University is committed to fostering an inclusive climate of equitable access, understanding and mutual respect which recognizes the dignity and worth of all persons, provides equal rights and opportunities without discrimination, and protects the privacy, confidentiality, comfort, autonomy and dignity of students with disabilities.

Procedures (under review)

To preserve the academic integrity of the University, it is reaffirmed that all students must satisfy the essential requirements of their respective courses and programs while at the same time, recognizing that students with disabilities may require reasonable accommodations to enable them to do so.

<http://studentaffairs.lakeheadu.ca/uploads/policies/Procedures-for-policy-on-academic-accommodation.pdf>

Essential Requirements

Essential requirements of a course or program refer to the knowledge and skills that must be acquired or demonstrated in order for a student to successfully meet the learning objectives of that course or program.

For example, it may likely be an essential requirement that a student master core aspects of a course curriculum. It is much less likely that it will be an essential requirement to demonstrate the mastery in a particular format.

Academic Accommodations

Three key principles are inherent in the duty to accommodate:

- 1) Respect for the **dignity** of persons with disabilities, including integrity, empowerment, confidentiality, privacy, comfort, autonomy, individuality and self-esteem;
- 2) **Individualization**, meaning that persons with disabilities are individuals first, and must be considered, assessed, and accommodated individually; and the
- 3) Right of persons with disabilities to **integration and full participation**, which requires inclusive design of facilities, programs, policies and procedures, and barrier-removal where barriers are found to exist. (OHRC, 2001, p.7)

STUDENT CHART

Students Registered with Student Accessibility Services 2015/16

	Total		Thunder Bay				Orillia		
MTCU Disability Code	2015/16		2015/16	2014/15	2013/14		2015/16	2014/15	2013/14
01-Acquired Brain Injury	19		18	16	8		1	0	0
02 -Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder	81		69	84	60		12	9	6
03- Chronic Illness/Systemic/Medical	77		61	48	43		16	18	21
04- Deaf/Deafened/Hard of Hearing	9		7	11	10		2	3	4
05 – Learning Disability	188		136	118	133		52	57	40
06- Low Vision / Blind	8		7	11	10		1	1	1
07- Mobility/Functional	67		61	56	56		6	5	4
08-Psychiatric	202		151	137	104		51	38	51
09-Other	16		16	6	0		0	0	0
Total Number of Students	667		526	487	424		141	131	127
2014/15	618								
2013/14	551								

Complexity

The impact of the disability can vary greatly from student to student.

Students may have multiple disabilities.

Many disabilities are non-visible.

There may be medication or other issues related to the disability.

Conditions can be unstable, unpredictable and/or episodic.

English as a Second Language ESL
– is not considered a disability

Disclosure

Disclosure of disability

- initiated by student
- voluntary outside of SAS
- students are not required to reveal their private medical information to, or seek accommodation directly from, their professors, instructors, teaching assistants, etc

What to do when a student discloses?

Accommodation Form

Should a student in your course engage with SAS for academic accommodations you will be sent a Confidential Accommodation Form. If a faculty member is concerned with the recommended accommodation or believes that the accommodation will jeopardize the essential requirements of the course, please contact Student Accessibility Services to discuss the concerns and potential alternatives.

Sample Accommodations

Lectures / Labs / Tutorials/ Practical Sessions

- Access to class notes, taping of lectures, use of FM, use of calculator, time extension for assignments, flexible attendance requirements

Tests and/or Exams

- extra time, use of computer (with or without assistive software), reader/scribe, distraction reduced, breaks, preapproved formula/fact sheet, restorative time between tests/exams, one exam per day, alternate form of testing (oral, essay/ MC), need to reschedule for disability reasons

FACULTY GUIDE, Accommodating Students with Disabilities
(link provided in Resources)

Notetakers

- Notetaking is a volunteer service provided by a peer in the student's class.
- If a notetaker is requested for your class you will receive an email asking that you make an announcement and/or send an email to the class.
- Notetaking serves as an excellent addition to a student's resume and co-curricular.

Resolution of Disagreements

If agreement between the student, Student Accessibility Services, and the instructor(s) about a recommended accommodation plan cannot be reached, the instructor shall discuss the matter with the Chair/Director of the Department/School (normally within five Working Days of receipt of the accommodation request).

Staff

Thunder Bay 807-343-8047

Lynda Kitzan	Manager
Nancy Cahill	Learning Strategist/Assistive Technologist
Jennifer Edwards	Accessibility Advisor
Sarah Mendek	Administrative Assistant
David Schelling	Access Strategist
Anya Scheibmayr	Accessibility Advisor

Orillia 705-330-2103

Danielle Poeta	Accessibility & Academic Skills Advisor
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References / Resources

ACCESSIBILITY FOR ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

<http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/accessibility/>

CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/charter/>

COUNCIL OF ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES

<http://www.cou.on.ca/issues-resources/key-issues/accessibility/accessible-toolkit-homepage.aspx>

- Academic Accommodations and Mental Health Disabilities

<http://www.accessiblecampus.ca/academic-accommodations-and-mental-health-disabilities-resource-website/>

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY POLICY

<http://policies.lakeheadu.ca/policy.php?pid=61>

ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS (OHRC)

http://www.elaws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90h19_e.htm

- OHRC Policy on preventing discrimination based on mental health disabilities and addictions <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/policy-preventing-discrimination-based-mental-health-disabilities-and-addictions>

SAS FACULTY RESOURCES

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/facultyandstaff/departments/services/sas>

THANK YOU

Questions ?

