Student Accessibility Services (SAS)

Overview of Supports & Services for Students with Disabilities
Our Primary Mandate

SAS supports students with permanent and temporary disabilities and strives to provide an accessible, barrier-free learning environment.

What Is A Disability?

Disability is defined by a functional limitation or impairment that is related to a student’s ability to perform the daily activities necessary to participate in post-secondary studies.

Why Provide Support

All students with disabilities have the right to equitable education.

Your legal rights to accommodations are based on the:

- *Canadian Charter of Right & Freedoms*

- *Ontario Human Rights Code, specifically:*
  
  - **Section 1:** affirms the right to equal treatment in services without discrimination because of disability
  
  - **Section 17:** sets out the Duty to Accommodate
These Disabilities are REAL

...and receiving accommodations does NOT give students an advantage!

- Disability supports are meant to **level the playing field**.
- For supports to be put in place, the disability must have some impact on access to learning or learning processes.
- Individual Accommodation Plans (IAP) are meant address **specific barriers that are a result of each student’s disability**. **The IAP is an evolving document.**
- Accommodations are based on official documentation from approved health care professionals such as:
  - Physician, psychologist, neurologist, physiotherapist, audiologist, etc.
Role of SAS

Student Accessibility Services provides...

- **educational-related** supports for students with disabilities, such as:
  - updated assessments/documentation
  - learning strategies
  - transition supports
  - advocacy skills
  - access to testing and note taking accommodations
  - adaptive technologies
  - referrals to counselling/tutoring/academic supports

- access to the Bursary for Students with Disabilities (BSWD) for students who are eligible for OSAP
Role of SAS (con’t)

SAS supports both students with disabilities & faculty in ensuring academic accommodations

Academic accommodations are:

- conditions, services, and/or tools which help to compensate for the effects of a disability in physical access, studying, classroom learning and/or testing and other evaluation

- based upon recommendations made in student’s disability documentation and are unique to the individual and specific to their disability-related needs

- not meant to give a student an academic advantage and in fact provide equitable access to education

- NOT modifications to essential course requirements
Quick Facts About SAS

In 2020/21, Student Accessibility Services supported 461 students. Of these:

- **440** have permanent disabilities
  
  This represents approximately **10%** of all Nipissing undergraduate students

- **21** needed temporary/interim support

- **243** have multiple disabilities

- **69** were registered in the following programs:
  
  - BComm –Distance Education
  - BScN Bridging
  - BScN Scholar Practitioner
Quick Facts About our Students

Percentage of students served by primary disability

- Brain Injury
- Learning Disability
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Mental Health
- Physical/Mobility
- Blind/Low Vision
- ADHD
- Chronic Medical
- Deaf/Hearing
- Other

- Autism Spectrum Disorder 3%
- Brain Injury 4%
- ADHD 18%
- Learning Disability 28%
- Chronic Medical 6%
- Deaf/Hearing 1%
- Mental Health
- Physical/Mobility
- Blind/Low Vision 1%
- Other 3%
- Mental Health 32%
Getting and Receiving Support

The first step is to submit a Self-ID Form then meet with an Accessibility Consultant (AC). You will need to:

- Provide appropriate documentation
- Work with your AC to create Individualized Academic Plan (IAP)

Based on your IAP, you may need to work with our:

- Student Accessibility Officers (SAO) to access testing and notetaking accommodations
- Adaptive Technologist (AT) to access technology specific needs

Throughout your registration you will need to:

- Submit a Returning Student Form for each term for which you require accommodations (including Spring/Summer)
- Update Accessibility Consultant on any changes to disability needs
- Follow up with Accessibility Consultant as required

For complete SAS Registration details visit our webpage.
Contact Us

Student Accessibility Services is located in the Office of Student Development & Services, Room B210. We are open Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. during the summer).

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