



# Transition Planning:

From High School to  
College



# Where do I find support?

- Commonly named Accessibility or Disability Services Department
- They won't find you, you must contact them!
- The higher the need, the sooner you should contact them

# What do I need to know about documentation?

- Georgian
  - Learning Disability
    - Psycho-educational assessment with a clear diagnostic statement
    - Statements such as “suggest the presence of” or “may indicate” are not acceptable diagnostic statements
    - Previous IEP, IPRC, or letter from high school/college detailing the types of accommodations utilized
  - ADHD
    - Clinical or educational assessment
  - Medical, physical, or sensory disability
    - letter from a licensed medical practitioner, qualified in the appropriate specialty area
  - Mental Health Disability
    - Persistent, diagnosed psychiatric disability
    - Letter from a qualified professional

# What do I need to know about documentation?

- Fanshawe
  - medical or psychological documentation with a diagnosis by someone authorized under law to make that diagnosis
- Fleming
  - documentation with a diagnosis by a professional qualified to provide that diagnosis
- Seneca
  - Ideally students would bring their IEP, IPRC, and Psycho-educational assessment or medical documentation if their disability is medical, psychiatric, physical, acquired brain injury, deaf/hard of hearing, blind, etc.

# Who are qualified professionals?

Examples include:

- Psychologist
- Speech language pathologist
- Audiologist
- Ophthalmologist
- Chiropractor
- Optometrist
- Psychiatrist
- Occupational therapist

# What if I only have an IEP?

- An IEP/IPRC is often not sufficient as it is an “identification” not a “diagnosis”
  - A diagnostic statement is what is required
- Georgian
  - Interim accommodations provided for one semester while an assessment is pursued
- Seneca
  - An IEP and/or IPRCs is accepted for the purpose of providing a temporary letter of accommodation for one semester
  - A Psycho-educational assessment is required for continued accommodation

# What if I only have an IEP?

- Fleming
  - May be eligible to receive “interim accommodations” for one semester
  - IEPs stating, “Exceptionality: Not Identified” indicates that the student does not have a disability, so they cannot be accommodated until they do get a diagnosis
- Seneca
  - May be provided a temporary accommodation letter
  - Student would need to obtain documentation from a regulated health care professional to qualify for accommodations beyond one or two semesters

# When should my assessment have been completed?

- Georgian
  - Hope for recent assessments, completed within the last five years, not because diagnosis will change, but because strengths/weaknesses may have changed
  - Updated assessments may be offered to ensure further accommodation can continue if original report is older than 5 years
  - Interim accommodations may be put in place for one semester pending appropriate documentation



# When should my assessment have been completed?

- Fleming
  - Helpful if the assessment was done when the student was in high school
- Seneca
  - Should be done when the student was 16 or over (adult norms will have been used in testing)
  - If assessment is old, for example grade 1-5, it will likely be recommended that an updated assessment be pursued

# What about accommodations?

- offered on a case by case basis
- based on documentation

# Accommodations at Georgian

- Accommodations might include:
  - Duplicated notes
  - Copy of instructional materials
  - Tape recorders
  - Assistive technology
  - Reader/scribe (rare) – used if student can demonstrate that assistive technology does not work for them

# Accommodations at Fanshawe

- Memory aids, double or unlimited time for tests and exams (rare)
- Encouraged to use technology rather than readers or scribes (exceptions)
- time and one half for tests; also use a computer or technology
- note taking system available; some professors post on website
- In some cases, a professional is hired to take notes for the student

# Accommodations at Fleming

- a reader and/or scribe can be requested while students learn technology
  - technology does not work for all students so they may not switch over
- extra time to access computers
- note takers
- instructional materials can often be printed from the class web site.
- one-on-one tutoring in up to 3 courses
- Clarification of test questions is rarely given and not given when writing separately (instructor discretion to clarify)

# Accommodations at Seneca

- double time for tests, exams and quizzes and the use of the computer with Word q and read and write gold text
- readers and scribes are rare as Assisstive Technology is available and encouraged
- memory aides (rare)
- Educational Assistants (even more rare)
- Often professors post notes Blackboard (class site)
- Peer Note taker (very common)
- A lot of students are also using a Smart Pen and/or computer with Microphone and Onenote system.

# What is the biggest challenge for students entering college?

- Attempting first semester without support (when supported throughout elementary and high school)
- Time management and organization
  - Open schedules/less structure (hour or two of classes followed by three hours without class)
  - Number of assignments and tests
  - Course load is at least triple what students are used to in high school
- Zero means zero
  - Seldom second chances without having spoken to instructor in advance and/or having documented reason for a circumstance

# What is the biggest challenge for students entering college?

- Self-advocacy
  - It's up to student to come to counseling, give accommodation letter to teachers, book tutoring, and make arrangements with Test center
- Work load (some programs have 6-7 courses per semester, plus placement)
- Minimal parent involvement
- Tracking your own progress



# Other considerations

- Additional services that may be provided:
  - Conselling
  - Career services
  - Co-op services
  - Health services
  - Tutoring
  - Learning strategists
  - Learning skills strategists
  - Writing centres
  - Math centres
  - Knowledge hubs (drop in help for different programs)
  - Adaptive technology assistance
  - Academic support labs
- Transition programs

# Financial Considerations

- OSAP
- Bursaries
- Benefits plans
- Student insurance may be used for assessment with a medical note from doctor

# References

- Fanshawe College. (2012). Accessibility at Fanshawe College. Retrieved February 15, 2012 from <http://www.fanshawec.ca/accessibility>
- Fleming College. (2012). Disability services. Retrieved February 15, 2012 from <http://flemingcollege.ca/services/disability-services>
- Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology. (2012). Accessibility services. Retrieved February 15, 2012 from <http://www.senecac.on.ca/students/disabilityservices.html>

## Personal Communications: Interview

- C. Gunnell, (personal communication, February 13, 2012) – Georgain College

## Personal communications: email

- S. Reynolds, (personal communication, February 22, 2012) – Fanshawe College
- L. Gunning, (personal communication, February 16, 2012) – Fleming College
- S. McDonald, (personal communication, February 16, 2012) – Seneca College