
Transition Planning:

From High School to University

Where do I find support?

- Commonly named Accessibility or Disability Services Department , Services for Students with Disabilities, Student Development Services
 - They won't find you, you must contact them!
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What do I need to know about documentation?

- Lakehead
 - written evaluation or report provided by an appropriate and regulated health care professional substantiating a diagnosed disability.
 - Learning Disability: psychological assessment and IEP
 - Disability other than: Medical Documentation Form and/or IEP
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What do I need to know about documentation?

- Western
 - To be in the best position to access all relevant services:
 - Learning Disability: a report from a comprehensive assessment
 - Attention Deficit Disorders: documentation that includes a diagnostic statement and comprehensive information about the implications of their ADHD for university (psychoeducational assessment or documentation from a physician, who has an expertise in ADHD).
 - A psychoeducational assessment may be required if accommodations are being requested that are not supported by physician's documentation.
 - Other: documentation that includes information about the nature and functional implications of their disabilities or ongoing health conditions in order to access our offices' services.
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When should my assessment have been completed?

- Lakehead
 - Last four years
 - Laurentian
 - It is preferable that the assessment is done when the student is 18 years old, at that age one is considered an adult and the diagnosis will not change.
 - Trent
 - Preferably within 3 years, but in some cases up to 5 years
 - If the assessment is older than 3 years, interim accommodations are put in place for one semester.
 - Western
 - Ideal 2 to 3 years.
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What if I only have an IEP?

- Lakehead
 - temporary accommodations until an assessment can be completed
 - temporary accommodations can only be offered for the first semester; however, if assessment process has been started accommodations may be continued for the second semester

 - Laurentian
 - will suffice until a psycho-educational assessment can be done
 - If students is assessed, but a disability is not diagnosed student will be "weaned" off accommodations (not terminated immediately)

 - Trent
 - Interim accommodations for one term only while the student is having an assessment completed
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What if I only have an IEP?

- Western

- some accommodations may be arranged on a temporary basis for students under certain circumstances while they are reassessed
 - Specifically, for students who have been formally identified as having a learning disability (or ADHD) through the IPRC process and who have used accommodation during high school
 - documentation from the school board or school indicating the IPRC designation and the accommodations that the student used in high school.
 - We cannot act on IEP documentation alone
 - For more extensive accommodations or for accommodations beyond first year, students would need to provide documentation of a recent, comprehensive assessment.
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What about accommodations?

- offered on a case by case basis
 - based on documentation
 - Some schools may also look at what accommodations were on the IEP and actually 'used' in high school, and then work with the student to accommodate their needs
 - Course requirements will also likely be a consideration. (i.e., both the nature of the evaluation methods & essential course requirements that cannot be removed by accommodation).
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Lakehead Accommodations

Examples of accommodations that have been used with students:

- Alternate Exam Format
 - Flexibility in scheduling exams/tests:
 - Memory Aids – formula sheet or fact sheet/word list
 - significant proof is required
 - must be negotiated and prepared 3 days before and approved by faculty
 - Tolerance of grammar/spelling errors
 - Rephrasing/Interpreting of Questions
 - Use of assistive technology
 - Taped Lectures
 - Student Note Taker
 - Copies of overhead/PowerPoint Slides
 - List of Text/Readings prior to class:
 - Extra Time
 - Breaks
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Laurentian Accommodations

Examples of accommodations include:

- extra time for exams
 - peer note takers
 - duplicated notes
 - seat copy of instructional material
 - extra time for assignments and tests/exams
 - readers/scribes tend to only be used for students who have some sort of physical impairment that prevents them from writing themselves.
 - several assistive technologies (preferable to readers/scribes)
 - que sheets
 - pre-approved by the professor and the student must have them signed and submitted to test centre in advance
 - extra time for assignments (not a blanket statement)
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Trent Accommodations

Examples of accommodations include:

- Scribes or readers not used as part of test accommodations
 - Oral testing is also not supported
 - Memory aids are usually not approved
 - As universities move toward universal instructional design, professors more and more provide formula sheets and 'cheat' sheets for all students.
 - Students in first year can access peer notes anonymously that are uploaded into our system.
 - developmental model with the goal of moving students toward developing note-taking skills.
 - Some students may require flexibility with regard to attendance, participation and deadlines. T
 - negotiated with (and may be denied by) the professor if they feel the form of assessment being addressed is a core skill or requirement that is part of the academic integrity of their course i.e. group work that requires a student be present and participate. In these cases we would coach a student to enroll in another course.
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Western Accommodations

Exam accommodations might include:

- a separate room in which to write
 - extra time
 - a computer for essay format exams
 - Kurzweil
 - Dragon Naturally Speaking
 - memory aids (not supported in almost all cases)
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Other Considerations

- OSAP
 - Bursaries
 - Other services available for support
 - Transition programs
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References

- Lakehead University. (2012). Student accessibility services. Retrieved February 9, 2012 from <http://learningassistance.lakeheadu.ca/>
- Laurentian University. (2012). Accessibility services. Retrieved February 9, 2012 from http://www.laurentian.ca/Laurentian/Home/Departments/Orientation/FAQ/Special+Needs.htm?Laurentian_Lang=en-CA
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- University of Western Ontario. (2012). Services for students with disabilities. Retrieved February 9, 2012 from <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/>

Personal Communications: email

- D. Steward, (personal communications, February 10, 2012) – Western
 - M. (last name unknown), (personal communications, February 9, 2012) – Laurentian
 - J. Lund, (personal communications, February 9, 2012) – Trent
 - D. (last name unknown), (personal communications, February 9, 2012) - Lakehead
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