

AccessAbility Services

How to Access Supports

Goal of Service

To facilitate the inclusion of students with disabilities into all aspects of university life.

Service Description

We provide individualized accommodations for students with disabilities. Our services include, but are not limited to:

- Consulting with the individual to identify and implement appropriate accommodations and supports (e.g. note taking, exam support, mobility assistance, etc.)
- Facilitating funding for disability-related needs
- Providing assistive technology support
- Coaching for learning strategies
- Addressing accessibility issues on campus
- Promoting disability awareness
- Providing referrals within the university and to community based supports

All students go through a period of transition when they come to university...

AccessAbility Services can help you make it a successful one!

- 1** Contact the office to make an appointment to meet with a Disability Consultant. Tel/TTY 416-287-7560 or ability@utsc.utoronto.ca
- 2** Bring the appropriate documentation to your appointment (see below)
- 3** Request accommodations in a timely manner to ensure that supports will be available to you when needed

Your Transition Related Documentation

To facilitate the accommodation process you will need to provide:

- Up to date documentation identifying how your disability impacts you in an educational setting and recommended services and accommodations (e.g. a medical certificate or psycho-educational assessment report).
- Information about what services and accommodations were offered in previous educational environments (e.g. IEP)
- A list of financial supports for which you have been approved (e.g. OSAP, ADP, etc)

Your Transition Planning Checklist

I have completed the following steps:

- Contacted AccessAbility Services to make an appointment
Appointment date: _____
Consultant Name: _____
- Gathered my disability related documentation to bring to my appointment
- Applied to OSAP in order to establish eligibility for the BSWD
- Visited the AccessAbility Services website to familiarize myself with services offered (www.utsc.utoronto.ca/ability)
- Explored orientation activities at U of T Scarborough

Notes: _____



TRANSITION TIPS For Students with Disabilities

AccessAbility Services

University of Toronto Scarborough
 Room SW302
 Tel / TTY 416-287-7560
ability@utsc.utoronto.ca
www.utsc.utoronto.ca/ability

First Year Transition

Careful planning for transition to post-secondary education is important for all students.

Successful transition planning for students with disabilities includes exploring available supports and initiating an accommodation plan in advance of the academic year.

AccessAbility Services will partner with you as you plan for success.



Four steps to making your transition easier:

- 1 Register with AccessAbility Services as early as possible
- 2 Determine eligibility for disability related financial resources
- 3 Develop an individualized plan for academic success
- 4 Employ self-advocacy skills

Getting Started

1 Register with AccessAbility Services as early as possible in order to:

- Identify appropriate supports and resources in advance of the academic year
- Initiate an accommodation plan that meets your individualized needs
- Explore assistive technology resources. There are many aids available that support learning and disability-related needs (e.g. software which will read printed material aloud)

2 Determine eligibility for disability related financial resources

- We recommend that all students apply to the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) in order to determine eligibility for the OSAP Bursary for Students with Disabilities (BSWD). The BSWD is designed to help students with their disability related educational costs (e.g. assistive technology)
- Investigate UofT Scholarships for students with permanent disabilities
- Determine eligibility for disability-related government programs (e.g. ADP and ODSP)
- Research external financial awards

3 Develop an individualized plan for academic success

- Set realistic goals that account for a different learning environment
- Select courses that best match your strengths and interests
- Carry a course load that meets your individual learning needs
- Develop and strengthen learning skills that are critical for academic success (e.g. time management, goal setting, note taking, and test preparation)

4 Employ self-advocacy skills

- Understand your diagnosis, strengths, challenges and needs
- Practice effectively communicating your needs to others



What to Expect...

University is very different from high school. Preparing for these differences will help you to succeed in your new environment.

You can expect:

- Larger class sizes
- Flexible schedules
- Increased volume of reading and work
- Greater academic variety and complexity

Students are expected to:

- Self-direct their learning
- Initiate contact with instructors
- Practice self-discipline
- Be familiar with available resources

Making a successful transition to university will depend on YOU.... GET INVOLVED!

There are a variety of extra-curricular activities available at the University of Toronto Scarborough. Take part in orientation programs, engage in activities on campus year round, join the Advisory Committee on Physical Accessibility, take part in student clubs and study groups, and familiarize yourself with the campus and its resources.