

## Introduction

Under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Alberta Human Rights Citizenship and Multiculturalism Act, students with disabilities are guaranteed equal access to education as well as other services. This means that students with disabilities, like all applicants, are considered for admission without discrimination. The level of support services required by the disabled applicant will not be a factor where an admission decision is required.

## Who is eligible for accommodations as a student with a disability?

Students who register with the Access Advisor to Students with Disabilities **may be** eligible for one or more accommodations, services and assistive technology **depending** on the nature of the disability and the information provided in your documentation. Types of documented disabilities include but are not limited to the following:

- ✓ Physical Disability
- ✓ Vision Impairment
- ✓ Hearing Impairment
- ✓ Learning Disability
- ✓ Physical Disability
- ✓ Mobility Disability
- ✓ ADD/ADHD
- ✓ Diagnosed Mental Health Disability
- ✓ Chronic Medical Illnesses
- ✓ Brain Injuries

Students should be aware that accommodations are intended to remove the barrier to learning “leveling the playing field.” However, all Olds College students are responsible for meeting and maintaining the essential academic standards set forth by the college for its courses, programs, services and activities.

## BEGINNING THE PROCESS

### STEP 1: Where do I go to get help regarding my disability?

If you plan to access accommodations while attending Olds College or are currently registered and have a documented disability, you may be eligible to receive accommodations. At least **three to six months** before the program begins you need to do the following:

- ✓ Complete and submit the Services for Students with Disabilities Registration Form
- ✓ Contact Access Advisor for Services to Students with Disabilities at 1- 800 -661-6537 or 403 507-7945
- ✓ Or email Chris Bellamy at [cbellamy@oldscollege.ca](mailto:cbellamy@oldscollege.ca)
- ✓

### STEP 2: Formal Documentation

The Access Advisor will request from the student, current appropriate documentation of your disability from an appropriate certified professional. High school IPP’s alone are not sufficient documentation of a disability at the college level. No more than three years may have passed between the time of the assessment and the date of the initial request for services. Documentation of a disability is necessary to access grants for assistive services and should include:

- ✓ The nature, severity and functional affects of the disability
- ✓ The functional impact caused by the disability that pertains to the specific post-secondary field of study.
- ✓ Recommendations for accommodations and support services that will permit full and equitable participation in post-secondary study.

### STEP 3: Access Advisor’s Role

The mandate of the Access Advisor to Students with Disabilities is to work with students and instructors to identify and remove any barriers which prevent students with documented disabilities from achieving their full potential and to allow them to interact with other students on an equitable basis.

The Access Advisor to Students with Disabilities will:

- ✓ Discuss with you the recommended accommodations and services that you may require while attending Olds College.
- ✓ Assist in your application for funding grants for services and assistive technology
- ✓ Facilitate provision of accommodations and services
- ✓ Collaborate with instructors regarding accommodations and services
- ✓ Refer you to appropriate resources on-campus and off-campus

#### **STEP 4: Funding for Accommodations**

Expenses related to individual learning supports are not funded through the same mechanism in college as they are in the school system. Securing and coordinating of funding for accommodation is a cooperative effort of the student and the Access Advisor to Students with Disabilities.

The cost of post-secondary disability related accommodations may be covered by grants administered through Student Finance, WCB, private insurance companies or other federal/provincial programs.

To secure funding for a disability related need:

- ✓ Meet with your funding source well in advance of attending Olds College
- ✓ Work with the Access Advisor to Students with Disabilities and a funding agency/Olds College to develop a service plan and associated costs.
- ✓ Develop in conjunction with the Access Advisor to Students with Disabilities a budget to meet individual learning needs. The Access Advisor to Students with Disabilities will then assess this proposed budget for funding to be secured to provide accommodations.

#### **More Information**

Contact the Access Advisor to Students with Disabilities

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