Accessible Learning Services

A Guide to Post-Secondary Education for Parents and Caregivers of Students with Disabilities

Students are encouraged to connect with Accessible Learning Services 3 months prior the start of the semester.

Early Identification

Parent/Caregiver Support

As the role of the student changes upon attending post-secondary, so does the role of the parents and caregivers. Parents and caregivers play an integral part in supporting their student to transition to a self-advocating, independent adult. This transition, with parental and caregiver support, is particularly important for individuals with disabilities who are planning to attend Mohawk College.

All students at Mohawk College are independent adults and it is ultimately the student’s decision to register with Accessible Learning Services.

Student Centered Planning

This document is meant to serve as a resource for parents and caregivers while they support their student through this exciting transition to Mohawk College.
Support Team

As your student transitions to college, you will find a vast team available to support your student and their disability related needs. We encourage students to use the resources that are available and applicable to their individual requirements.

Team Members
Attendant Care

While Mohawk College does not provide attendant care services for students, Accessible Learning Services can help facilitate the application process. For more information on how your student can acquire attendant care services at college and residence please see the Centre for Independent Living Toronto website (www.cilt.ca).

Communication Support

Students with communication needs may contact Accessible Learning Services via email and appropriate arrangements will be made for an interpreter to attend meetings.

Getting Ready

1. Funding Post-Secondary Education

It is important for students to think about financial costs and develop a plan to pay for their post-secondary education. In addition to savings, funding for education may be supplemented through a number of programs for students. Here are some resources that may be useful:

- Financial Assistance
  - 905-575-2000
  - http://www.mohawkcollege.ca/financial-assistance.html
- Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)
  - https://osap.gov.on.ca/OSAPPortal
  - Bursary for Students with Disabilities (BSWD)
  - Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment for Persons with Permanent Disabilities (CSG-PDSE)
- Awards, Scholarships and Bursaries

2. Documentation

As a parent or caregiver you can support your student to gather and be knowledgeable about their disability documentation. Students should gather the following relevant documentation:

- IEP / IPRC documentation – most recent
- Psycho-educational Assessment(s)
- Neuro-psych Assessment
- Medical documentation

For more information on how your student can acquire or update his/her documentation please see the Guide to Disability Documentation at:

3. Register with Accessible Learning Services

Your student should contact Accessible Learning Services (ALS), as soon as they have received confirmation of acceptance. Students registering with ALS will need to complete a General Intake and Registration Session. This can be done online or in a group setting.

For additional information students can contact our Intake and Assessment Advisor at:

- 905-575-2211
- accessiblelearningservices@mohawkcollege.ca.

The Duty to Accommodate

Accommodations are changes in the traditional rules and procedures surrounding teaching and testing which allow students with disabilities to participate on a ‘level playing field’.

In Ontario, post-secondary institutions have ‘a duty to accommodate’ students with disabilities. This means that institutions are expected to make every reasonable effort to accommodate students with disabilities.

Accessible Learning Services and your student work together to develop an accommodation plan.

Please be aware that Accessible Learning Services may need time to arrange accommodations.

Support Team

Student’s Role

The independence Mohawk College offers means that students are responsible for:

- Disclosing their disability to Accessible Learning Services.
  - It is at the sole discretion of the student who may attend their intake appointment.
- Providing appropriate documentation in a timely manner.
- Following procedures and deadlines for requesting and accessing accommodations each semester.
  - Accommodations may not be available if procedures or deadlines are not met.
- Distributing and discussing accommodations with each instructor.
- Updating their Case Manager if their accommodations are not being met or their needs have changed.
Support Team

Parent’s Role

Parents and caregivers can offer transition support to their student by:

- Helping their student to articulate their strengths and abilities.
- Encouraging the student to connect with campus services and activities.
- Promoting decision making and providing support and understanding for your student as they develop their own educational goals.
- If your student needs an updated psychoeducational assessment, looking into your insurance benefits to determine what portion of the assessment can be covered.
- Providing support and encouragement as your student navigates through the exciting and often stressful transition to, and duration in, post-secondary education.

Accessible Learning Services Role

Accessible Learning Services offers support by:

- Meeting with students to support their transition to Mohawk College.
- Reviewing documentation and obtaining additional documentation as required, including funding options (i.e. updated psychoeducational assessment, medical documentation, etc.).
- Working with students to create an accommodation plan to support disability related needs.
- Consulting with faculty, staff and community as needed to meet accommodation needs.
- Assessing students for learning and adaptive technology needs, and providing services and resources to support access and/or facilitate purchase.
- Providing alternative format materials.

Confidentiality

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) guides Mohawk College’s confidentiality and consent policies. ALS faculty do not discuss private or confidential information with parents or caregivers, unless the student has given written consent and discussion with a parent or caregiver is required by the student or ALS faculty.

Students Being Their Own Advocate

Mohawk College students are considered independent adults and are expected to communicate directly with Accessible Learning Services, professors and College staff.