



POLICY ON ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Authorization: Senate
Established: 1994/95
Revised: May 30, 2011

1.0 SUBJECT

Policy for the academic accommodation of students with disabilities

2.0 PURPOSE, SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

2.1 The purpose of this policy is to provide a statement of the principles and responsibilities in the provision of academic accommodation for students with disabilities.

2.2 This policy is restricted to matters of academic accommodation for students with disabilities. It does not address lifestyle or quality of life issues.

2.3 The following definitions shall apply in this Policy:

“Academic Integrity” is defined as the essential academic requirements of a course of program which includes but is not limited to the knowledge and skills which are necessary to meet the learning objectives.

“Chair” means head of an academic unit and includes a Department Chair or School Director.

“CSD” means the Centre for Students with Disabilities at the University. CSD is the unit designated to assist the University community in integrating students with disabilities into all aspects of the University’s academic life.

“Course Instructor(s)” is defined as the individual(s) teaching the course, or in the case of graduate students, can include a faculty advisor or advisory committee.

“Dean” means the dean of the college which has responsibility for the course or program.

“Disabilities” shall have the same meaning as under the *Ontario Human Rights Code* in force and as amended from time to time, and may include but is not limited to:

- learning disabilities
- attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder

- hearing and/or vision disabilities
- medical disabilities
- physical disabilities
- acquired brain injuries
- psychological/emotional disabilities

“Examinations” include but are not limited to midterms, tests, quizzes, lab examinations or final examinations, competency examinations and defences.

3.0. PRINCIPLES FOR THE PROVISION OF ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

- 3.1 The University of Guelph asserts the fundamental equality of all human beings and is committed to creating for all members of its community, an environment that is hospitable, safe, supportive, equitable, pleasurable, and above all, intellectually challenging (University Mission Statement, 1995).
- 3.2 In accordance with the University’s policies and procedures and applicable legislation including the *Ontario Human Rights Code*, and the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*, the University of Guelph shall provide reasonable accommodation, short of undue hardship.
- 3.3 The University promotes the full participation of students with disabilities in their academic program. It is recognized that the provision of academic accommodation is a shared accountability and responsibility between the University and the student.
- 3.4 Decisions regarding academic accommodation are made on an individual basis and must be consistent with the Academic Integrity of the course or program.
- 3.5 The ultimate responsibility for the academic programming and educational policy of the University rests with Senate, and nothing in this policy will be interpreted so as to alter Senate’s jurisdiction.

4.0 DECISION PROCESS

- 4.1 Requests for certain forms of academic consideration can be approved directly by CSD. These include requests for:
- a) note taking;
 - b) arrangements for appropriate seating in a classroom;
 - c) the writing of Examinations in CSD offices to facilitate the use of extra time, a private room, use of a computer, adaptive software or word processor, or access to a reader or scribe, as needed.
- 4.2 Requests for academic consideration not included in 4.1 will be considered and ideally, a decision reached by consensus between the Course Instructor, the student and CSD, if necessary in consultation with the Chair (or Graduate

Program Coordinator for graduate students). If consensus is not reached, the decision concerning academic accommodation for undergraduate students will be made by the Dean (or designate) of the College who has the oversight responsibility for the course. In the case of graduate students, the decision regarding academic consideration will be made by the Dean (or designate) and the A.V.P. (Graduate Studies).

- 4.3 Decisions made under sections 4.1 and 4.2 of this Policy can be appealed by the student to the Senate Committee on Student Petitions (“Petitions”) in accordance with Petitions’ Bylaws and Regulations.

5.0 PERIODIC REVIEW PROCESS

- 5.1 In order to ensure that this Policy continues to be effective, it shall be reviewed periodically. The Associate Vice-President Student Affairs is responsible for initiating this review no less than every five years.