

Accessibility Services Transition Guide: Secondary to Post-Secondary.

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS – UPDATED APRIL 2018

ROLE OF ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Accessibility Services is committed to providing students with disabilities the support services and guidance needed to transition to Langara College. Our dedicated staff work with students on a case-by-case basis to arrange appropriate services and accommodations.

TRANSITION TO POST-SECONDARY:

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SECONDARY SCHOOL AND POST-SECONDARY

In post-secondary education, services for students with disabilities is governed by different policies, procedures, and legislation than in secondary schools.

The primary role of Accessibility Services in post-secondary institutions like Langara College is to facilitate access to courses, programs, and services for admissible students.

	Secondary School (Ministry of Education)	Post-Secondary (Ministry of Advanced Education)
Disability Identification	School identifies students with disabilities	Students with disabilities identify themselves to Accessibility Services
Accommodation Decisions	Parents/guardians/teachers and other school staff make decisions	Decisions are made by Accessibility Services in consultation with the student and based on medical documentation
Learning Support	Students receive individualized instruction	Accommodations provide equal access to education and may or may not include accommodations provided in secondary school
	Modifications and accommodations are based on IEPs (Individual Education Plans)	Modification to admission criteria, curriculum, and programs is unavailable
Advocacy	Parents, students, and school officials advocate for students	Students are responsible for their own advocacy

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Post-secondary education offers a new and exciting experience. The independence post-secondary education offers also means that students are solely responsible for accessing the services they need.

In order to access and determine eligibility for Accessibility Services at Langara College students are responsible for:

- Meeting with Accessibility Services for an intake appointment **preferably at least three (3) months prior to the start of the semester**. Students may choose to have their parent or advocate attend the intake meeting, but it is at the sole discretion of the student.
- Disclosing their disability to an Accessibility Services Consultant.
- Providing supporting and appropriate medical documentation in a timely manner. Please visit our website for documentation information: www.langara.ca/student-services/accessibility-services.html
- Acting as their own advocate. Students who attend are considered independent adults and are expected to communicate directly with Accessibility Services, instructors, and College staff. College employees cannot discuss personal and confidential information with parents or anyone else. Students with communication access needs may contact us via email and appropriate arrangements will be made for an interpreter to attend meetings.
- Following procedures and deadlines for requesting and accessing accommodations **each semester**. Accommodations may not be available if procedures or deadlines are not met. Please visit our "Student Responsibilities" page on the website for more information: www.langara.ca/student-services/accessibility-services/student-responsibilities.html
- Discussing academic accommodations with each instructor at the beginning of classes and throughout each semester as needed.
- Informing Accessibility Services if they are not receiving accommodations and if their condition or health status has changed.

TIMELINE

To ensure a smooth transition to post-secondary there are some steps that potential students can do prior to attending classes.

Grade 12

- Browse the Langara website and check what programs and courses are available.
- Apply to Langara College.
- Book an intake appointment with Accessibility Services **preferably at least three (3) months prior to the start of the semester**.
- Accommodations can only be considered with support from medical documentation. (See checklist to the right.)
- Attend a Course Planning Session offered through the Counselling Department. Visit the Counselling section on the College website for details.
- Attend an information session for your program(s) of choice, if applicable. Visit the College website for details.
- Schedule diagnostic tests (Langara English Test and Math Diagnostic Test), if required. Check with an Accessibility Services Consultant if you qualify for exam accommodations for diagnostic tests.
- Register for courses online.
- Visit Financial Aid for StudentAid BC loan, grant, and bursary funding eligibility and applications.
- Attend New Student Orientation.

First Semester

- Submit your *Request for Accommodations Form* to Accessibility Services by the **posted deadline** (usually the first Friday of the start of the semester).
- Pick up accommodation letters by the **posted deadline** (usually the second Friday of the start of the semester).
- Provide accommodation letters to instructors immediately and discuss accommodation needs.
- If approved for exam accommodations:
 - Book midterm exams with an Accessibility Services Accommodation Assistant **at least one week prior** to the exam date.
 - Pick up, have instructors sign, and submit the *Final Exam Accommodation Form* by the **posted deadline** to ensure receipt of approved exam accommodations during the Final Exam period.

Medical Documentation Checklist

- If you have current (maximum 3 years old) medical documentation, please bring it to the intake appointment.
- If you are a student with a learning disability, check with your school about eligibility for an updated Psycho-educational or Learning Disability Assessment.
- Please visit our website for documentation information: www.langara.ca/student-services/accessibility-services.html

HOW CAN I HELP?

As the role of the student changes upon attending post-secondary, so does the role of the parents. It is important to remember that all students at Langara College are treated as independent adults. It is ultimately the student's decision to access and request services. Here are some ways you can support your new student at Langara:

1. Attend Langara College's Parent and Supporter Orientation Night.
2. Encourage your student to connect with campus services and activities. Accessibility Services employees, counsellors, instructors, and others are available to support Langara College students.
3. Promote decision making. Provide support and understanding for your student as they develop their own educational goals.
4. Provide support and encouragement as your student navigates through the exciting and often stressful transition to, and first semester in, post-secondary education.