

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF THE FRASER VALLEY

POLICY MANUAL

POLICY TITLE: Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

POLICY NUMBER: 340.22

DATE APPROVED: 1991-06-04
1998-02-04
(UCC) 2004-12-10

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 070/91
365/98

POLICY: UCFV recognizes and affirms the rights of persons with disabilities (permanent or temporary) to access post secondary education and will take the initiative in removing barriers that prevent or inhibit full participation by persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities are expected to meet all course and program standards.

UCFV will make every reasonable attempt, given the necessary resources, to accommodate persons with disabilities.

Accommodation will only be provided in such circumstances where there is clear evidence that a disability exists and where it is possible to create an accommodation plan based on the information available.

DATE OF REVIEW: 2009

POLICY HOLDER: Vice President, Learning and Student Success

APPROVAL AUTHORITY: University College Council

REPLACES POLICY #: Revisions to existing policy

APPLICABILITY: All UCFV students, courses and programs

CATEGORY: Education

RELATED LEGISLATION, POLICIES, REFERENCE: Section 15(1) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms states:

Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability.

The BC Human Rights Code, 199 Chapter 210 states as follows:

8 (1) A person must not, without a bona fide and reasonable justification,
(a) deny to a person or class of persons any accommodation, service or facility customarily available to the public, or

(b) discriminate against a person or class of persons regarding any accommodation, service or facility customarily available to the public because of the race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation of that person or class of persons.

Other legislation includes Canadian Human Rights Act, Workers Compensation Board of BC Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, British Columbia Building Code, Access to Education Act, BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

DEFINITIONS:

Disability: a mental, physical, and/or neurological impairment, learning disorder, or psychiatric disorder, which is likely to continue and may significantly limit and or interfere with educational pursuits.

Documentation: Written statement from an appropriate professional, verifying current (i.e. within the past three years) functional limitation and indicating how the disability will affect post secondary studies.

PROCEDURES & GUIDELINES:

Applying for Accommodation for a Disability

Accommodations must be requested from and approved by Disability Services.

Students are required to provide current documentation of their disability to Disability Services in order to qualify for support services. The Coordinator or designate will assess the documentation and determine whether or not there is a disability which must be accommodated, and whether or not documentation is adequate for the purpose of accommodation. If a student is deemed to have a documented disability, he or she will be assigned to the case-load of a Disability Access Advisor for accommodation arrangements.

If a student with disabilities requests services and does not have documentation, the student may be accommodated, at the discretion of the Coordinator of Disability Services, for one semester, pending receipt of appropriate documents.

Students or prospective students are expected to supply documentation to the Coordinator of Disability Services or designate at least four months before the beginning of the course or program they wish to take. Where it is not possible to provide four months notice, students will be considered for accommodation as feasible.

Changes to prearranged accommodations can only be considered if students make requests to Disability Services in a timely manner.

Providing Physical Access

UCFV will comply with the British Columbia Building Code regulations including physical access for persons with disabilities. When feasible all facilities will incorporate principles of universal design. In addition, other modifications such as adjustable laboratory stations, computer stations, and adaptive technology will be installed as resources permit.

A review of physical access and safety issues will be undertaken annually by Disability Services in consultation with the Director of Facilities.

Providing Accommodation for Entrance Requirements

During the pre-enrolment period, including interviews, orientations, admission and assessments, the University College will provide accommodations for persons with a documented disability.

Students with disabilities may access early registration through Disability Services if they require interpreters, texts in alternate format, or specific scheduling due to their disability.

Providing Classroom and Exam Accommodations

If a student has a disabling condition that inhibits him/her from acquiring or expressing information through traditional classroom procedures, then those procedures shall be adapted to accommodate the student.

Accommodation could include the following:

- a) adapting a component of an assignment, course or program such as allowing a student with a physical disability to describe a procedure or concept instead of physically demonstrating it, where appropriate.
- b) substituting or deleting a component of a program such as allowing a student with a visual impairment to take a course in music appreciation instead of art education.

Students who require mechanical or electric devices, such as tape recorders, in order to access or express information, will be permitted to use them unless such equipment is unduly disruptive to the class. Audio or visual taped material may only be used by the student for the designated purpose.

The student, the instructor, and the Disability Services Access Advisor will collaborate to provide appropriate exam accommodations.

APPENDICES: