

## ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

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<b>Approval Authority</b>	President
<b>Responsible Executive</b>	Vice President, Students and Enrolment Management
<b>Related Policies / Legislation</b>	Board policy direction Student Services, Student Activities and Associations (BPD-230) BC Human Rights Code Chapter 210, Section 15(1) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to foster diversity, inclusiveness, and student success at the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) by ensuring that UFV complies with the legal duty to provide academic accommodation.

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### SCOPE

This policy applies to all students with disabilities enrolled at the university. Policy compliance encompasses instructors, other employees, contractors, and students at UFV.

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### DEFINITIONS

In this policy, the following definitions apply:

**Accommodation:** Providing support for the purpose of accessing services, courses, or courses of study, programs, making exceptions to any regulations, policies, or standards of practice, or making modifications to physical environments to the extent necessary to address discrimination against a student based on any Protected Grounds.

**Disability:** A student with a disability is a person who

- Has been diagnosed by an appropriate professional as having: a mental health impairment; physical impairment, neurological impairment; learning disorder; or sensory impairment, any/all of which may be permanent or temporary and is likely to continue and may significantly interfere with educational pursuits: and
- Experiences functional restrictions or limitations in their ability to perform the range of life's activities; and
- May experience attitudinal and/or environmental barriers that hamper their full and self-directed participation in life.

**Protected Grounds:** The areas in which individuals are protected by human rights legislation (e.g., gender, race, disability).

**Student:** Includes an applicant for admission as well as a person who has been admitted and is eligible to register in courses at UFV.

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## **POLICY**

UFV recognizes and affirms the rights of persons with disabilities (permanent or temporary) who are academically qualified, to have full, fair, and equal access to all university services, programs, and facilities. The university will take all measures short of undue hardship to provide reasonable academic accommodation to students with disabilities and equal opportunity to allow them to succeed in their programs of study.

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## **REGULATIONS**

In accordance with the BC Human Rights Code, reasonable academic accommodations must be provided to students with disabilities when the disability impairs the student's ability to fulfill essential requirements of a course or program.

The essential requirements of the course or program are the knowledge and/or skills that must be acquired in order to demonstrate that the student has successfully met the learning objectives, as established by the course instructor, of the course or program.

Academic accommodations must be requested from and approved by the Centre for Accessibility Services (CAS).

In some circumstances, the nature and degree of a disability may mean that no reasonable accommodation would enable an individual to perform the essential requirements of a course or program. Where no reasonable accommodation can be provided, the university may refuse admission in order to preserve the academic integrity (i.e., the essential requirements) of a course or program.

A person will not be presumed to be incapable of demonstrating the essential requirements of a course or program unless all reasonable options for accommodation have been considered and deemed insufficient.

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

### **Confidentiality**

The university is concerned with protecting the privacy and confidentiality of students with disabilities while requiring sufficient information to reasonably evaluate and respond to the student's request for accommodation. When the accommodation process requires students to disclose information outside of CAS regarding the nature of their disability, needs and restrictions, that information shall be disclosed on a "need to know" basis only. All personal information disclosed to staff or faculty beyond CAS shall be governed by Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation.

### **Responsibilities of the Student**

Students are their own best advocates; a reasonable measure of self-reliance, information-gathering, communication with instructors and university staff is an important aspect of academic success.

Upon admission to UFV, a student with a disability who requires accommodation must supply documentation to the Coordinator of CAS or designate a minimum of four months before the beginning of the course or program they wish to take. The student is responsible for associated costs. Where it is not possible to provide four months' notice, students will be considered for accommodation as feasible.

Changes to pre-arranged accommodations can only be considered if students make requests for accommodation to CAS in a timely manner.

In order to obtain the maximum benefit from accommodations and support services, students with disabilities are expected to:

- adhere to the policies and procedures for each CAS service accessed inclusive of classroom and exam accommodations;
- maintain a relationship with their instructors around course content, anticipated and actual difficulties with course/program content, and accommodations;
- participate in developing and implementing strategies related to their own academic success;
- understand that sufficient notice must be given to arrange academic accommodations;
- be willing to engage in dialogue around accommodation strategies that may take place across the university.

Should a student feel dissatisfied or wish to appeal a decision, the student should speak with the Coordinator of CAS. If the issue remains unresolved, the student may appeal the matter or decision in writing to the VP Students. The decision will be made by a committee assembled by the VP Students and Enrolment Management for the purpose of investigating the appeal. Decisions made by the committee will be final.

### **Responsibilities of the Centre for Accessibility Services**

The role of the Centre for Accessibility Services (CAS) is to

- assess student's documentation to determine whether or not there is a disability which can be accommodated and whether or not that documentation is adequate for the purpose of accommodation;
- provide accommodation plans;
- provide academic guidance, resources, and community services to students with disabilities.

To this end, the CAS will do the following:

- encourage all students with disabilities to register with CAS;
- approve appropriate academic accommodations for each individual registered with CAS;
- coordinate the requests for and provision of academic accommodations including classroom and exam accommodations;
- provide advice and assistance regarding accessibility issues;
- help students registered with CAS to access funding, psychological testing, technology, alternate format texts, and tutor support.

### **Providing Physical Access**

UFV 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. 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 Centre for Accessibility Services in consultation with the Director of Facilities.