

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | Access & Diversity

Disability Services: An Overview


C.J. Rowe, Diversity Advisor – Women
Kuan Foo, Diversity Advisor – Disability
New graduate student orientation 2014 handout



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | Access & Diversity

Academic Accommodations

- There is a legal duty to accommodate persons with disabilities in accordance with the *BC Human Rights Code* and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom*.
- In the context of UBC, this means that students with disabilities are entitled to equal access to education and equal opportunity for success. This may involve the provision of Academic Accommodations.
- The purpose of an Academic Accommodation is to put a person with a disability on an equal footing with someone who does not have a disability.
- Academic Accommodations do not compromise academic standards and a student receiving Academic Accommodation still has to fulfill the essential learning outcomes of the academic program.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | Access & Diversity

Policy 73

- *UBC Policy 73: Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities* delegates the authority for determining and facilitating academic accommodations to A&D. This ensures:
 - Consistent evaluation and decision-making regarding a student's disability and accommodations across the entire campus; and
 - Confidentiality of the student's information regarding their disability.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | Access & Diversity

Disability Services

- Determines and facilitates Academic Accommodations for approximately 1800 students on campus.
- Reviews medical documentation to determine Academic Concessions based on disability.
- Coordinates and proctors over 7,000 specialized exams for students with disabilities per academic year.
- Coordinates support services for students with disabilities (e.g., notetaking, tutoring services) employing over 1000 hourly student assistants annually.




THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | Access & Diversity

Disability Services

Disability Services does not deal with:

- Short-term illnesses or injuries (i.e., issues of a duration shorter than a month). These fall within the jurisdiction of the individual faculty or instructors.
- Students requiring therapeutic support. Students with these issues may be referred to Counseling Services or Student Health Services.
- Behavioral or conduct issues. These issues should be referred to the faculty, Early Alert or, in extreme cases, to Campus Security.
- Medical, psychological or psycho-educational testing.
- Shuttling students with mobility-related disabilities.




THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | Access & Diversity

Disability Definitions

Disabilities is an umbrella term, covering impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions. An impairment is a problem in body function or structure; an activity limitation is a difficulty encountered by an individual in executing a task or action; while a participation restriction is a problem experienced by an individual in involvement in life situations. Thus disability is a complex phenomenon, reflecting an interaction between features of a person's body and features of the society in which he or she lives.

— World Health Organization



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | Access & Diversity

Disability Definitions

Persons with disabilities are persons who:

- o have a significant and persistent mobility, sensory, learning, or other physical or mental health impairment which may be permanent or temporary; AND
- o experience functional restrictions or limitations of their ability to perform the range of life's activities; AND
- o may experience attitudinal and/or environmental barriers that hamper their full and self-directed participation in life.


— UBC Policy 73



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | Access & Diversity

Disabilities


- o Physical Disabilities
- o Visual Impairment
- o Hearing Impairment or Loss
- o Learning Disabilities
- o Acquired Brain Injury
- o Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- o Chronic Health Conditions
- o Mental Health
- o Autism Spectrum Disorder



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | Access & Diversity

Demographics - Disability

Breakdown by Disability Type	2012/13	2013/14 (to date)
ADD/ADHD	19.4%	18.7%
Chronic Health	16.9%	15.5%
Hearing Disability (Deaf and Hard of Hearing)	3.5%	2.6%
Learning Disability	16.4%	14.1%
Mental Health	36.1%	36.4%
Physical Disability (mobility, dexterity, upper body strength)	11.4%	9.5%
Suspected disability	1.7%	2.2%
Temporary Disability	0.4%	0.45%
Neurological Disability (Traumatic Brain Injury, Aspergers)	7.4%	7.1%
Vision Disability (Blind/visually impaired)	3.6%	2.9%




THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | Access & Diversity

Other Factors

There can be enormous variations in how individuals experience their disability. Some factors to consider include:


- o Age of onset of the disability.
- o Degree of condition.
- o Extent of support services.
- o Prevalence of other disabilities.
- o Existence of other factors e.g. language of dominant culture not primary, social class, ethnicity, gender, cultural attitudes towards disability.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | Access & Diversity

Procedures - Students

- o Students are responsible for
 - self-disclosing their disability to A&D;
 - obtaining and submitting medical documentation which meets A&D standards; and
 - requesting accommodations in a timely manner.
- o Students must meet with a Diversity-Advisor Disability who will assess a students accommodations based on the student's experiences and their medical documentation.




THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | Access & Diversity

Accommodation Letter

Once a student has been assessed, they will be provided with an Accommodation Letter. This can be either:


- o **Accommodation Letter** - sets out ongoing accommodations;
- o **Interim Accommodation Letter** – provided as a stopgap for students where there is strong evidence of an undiagnosed disability that may take some time to properly document. Time-limited and non-renewable;
- o **Temporary Accommodation Letter** – provided in the case of a temporary disability. Time-limited.
- o **"No Accommodations" Letter** – for students who have an ongoing medical condition that is variable in nature and may not require accommodations most of the time.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | Access & Diversity

Common Accommodations and Support Services


- o Extended time on exams.
- o Distraction-reduced or private space for exams.
- o Use of a computer for exams.
- o Use of recording device in class or notetaking services.
- o Texts in alternate format.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | Access & Diversity

Information for Instructors

- o Students are responsible for presenting their Accommodation Letter to their instructors as soon as possible (preferably at the beginning of each term) and for making any necessary arrangements with their professors for accommodations that have to be implemented in the classroom.
- o Students are not obligated to use academic accommodations and may decline to use them even after they have been assessed. This does not impact their eligibility to use the accommodations at later date. However, students still have to inform instructors that they are eligible for accommodations in a timely manner (in the middle of the final exam period is not considered timely!)




THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | Access & Diversity

Information for Instructors

Instructors should not:


- o Ask for specifics about a student's medical information or documentation. A student may disclose if they choose but it is the student's choice.
- o "Negotiate", substitute or modify accommodations. All accommodations must be based on medical documentation provided to A&D. If the instructor feels that an accommodation is not workable or compromises an essential learning outcome of the course, the instructor should contact the student's Primary Advisor. Likewise, if a student requests an accommodation not identified by A&D, the instructor should refer the student to their Primary Advisor or contact the advisor directly.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | Access & Diversity

Exams


- o When a student has exam accommodations one of two things can happen:
 - Their professor provides them with the accommodation; or
 - They register to write the exam through A&D.
- o Students register for exams at A&D through our online booking system and must request an exam sitting:
 - At least one week prior to the exam for midterms and quizzes; and
 - At least one week prior to the start of the formal exam period for final exams.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | Access & Diversity

Exams

- o Instructors will be contacted by email one week prior to the exam and prompted to:
 - Log in to the Exam Booking System within 48 hours and confirm the time, date and duration of the exam and provide details on how to administer the exam;
 - Provide us with a copy of the exam at least two days before the exam (or at least one week before if the exam has to be converted to Braille)
 - Select how they want the exam delivered back to them.




THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | Access & Diversity

Exams

- o Any special arrangements for exams (e.g., slide shows, dictation, group components, etc.) should be communicated to A&D as early as possible.
- o Questions or inquiries regarding exams can be directed to the student's Primary Advisor or the A&D Exam Coordinator:


Aleksandra Djordjevic, Acting Exam Coordinator
exam.coordinator@ubc.ca



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | Access & Diversity

Exam Statistics

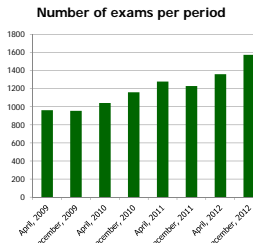
Final Exam Period	Number of exams per period	Largest number of exams on a specific day
April, 2009	963	109
December, 2009	956	100
April, 2010	1043	115
December, 2010	1162	126
April, 2011	1280	137
December, 2011	1231	125
April, 2012	1362	137
December, 2012	1576	162
Fall Midterms		
	Number of midterms per period	
October, 2009	667	61
October, 2010	694	62
October, 2011	732	61
October, 2012	1010	93



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | Access & Diversity

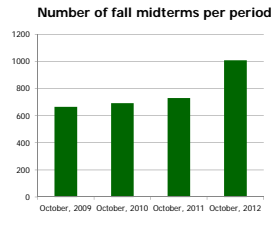
Exam Statistics

Number of exams per period



Final Exam Period	Number of exams per period
April, 2009	963
December, 2009	956
April, 2010	1043
December, 2010	1162
April, 2011	1280
December, 2011	1231
April, 2012	1362
December, 2012	1576

Number of fall midterms per period



Final Exam Period	Number of midterms per period
October, 2009	667
October, 2010	694
October, 2011	732
October, 2012	1010