

Senate Policies and Regulations

Policy Regarding Support and Accommodation for Students with Disabilities (January 2011)

(Revised, January, 2015)

“The mission of Acadia University is to provide a personalized and rigorous liberal education; promote a robust and respectful scholarly community; and inspire a diversity of students to become critical thinkers, lifelong learners, engaged citizens, and responsible global leaders.”

Acadia values diversity, and believes that supporting and accommodating diverse learners brings richness and depth to a robust and respectful scholarly community. We are therefore committed to making every reasonable attempt to support and accommodate the diverse learning requirements of students with disabilities. All students who have met the entrance criteria established by the University and who have documented disabilities will have access to supports and accommodations that will facilitate their pursuit of the same curricular outcomes as their peers. Students with disabilities who are considering joining our campus community are encouraged to contact the office of Accessible Learning Services to learn more about the specific supports and accommodations Acadia can provide.

The provision of appropriate supports and accommodations is guided by the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act and they are based on recommendations contained in the student’s most recent disability assessment, conducted within the last five years. While supports and accommodations will be coordinated through the Accessible Learning Services office, faculty members exercise their pedagogical judgement to support diverse learners in all aspects of academic work. Accommodations may modify the way course material is accessed, or the way tests, exams, and other assessments of learning are administered; however, the material being taught and the constructs being tested are not altered.

Appeals Process

Questions or concerns regarding this Policy or its implementation may be raised with the Coordinator of Accessible Learning, and/or the Chair of the Senate Disability Policy Committee. Appeals may be taken to the Senate Admissions and Academic Standing Committee (Appeals). In cases where the cost of providing accommodations might be a factor in deliberations, the Vice-President Enrolment and Student Services (or delegate) may attend relevant meetings of the committees, as a non-voting member.