

Academic Accommodations Policy
(formerly Services to Students with Disabilities)

Board of Governors
Academic

PURPOSE

Nova Scotia Community College recognizes its legal duty to provide a learning environment free from discrimination and to address student needs with accommodations to the point of undue hardship in accordance with the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act.

This Policy establishes the College's goal of providing in an equitable manner:

- equal educational opportunities and full participation for students in the learning environment; and
- access to programs and services offered by the College.

This policy supports Nova Scotia Community College's values of student success, accessibility, diversity and inclusion.

SCOPE

This policy applies to students of or applicants to the College, who have a disability within the meaning of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act.

DEFINITIONS

Academic Accommodations are individualized alterations in how a student:

- accesses course or program content and information;
- participates in learning and course work; and/or
- demonstrates skills or knowledge.

They allow a student a fair opportunity to engage in academic activities and fulfill essential course and program requirements. Reasonable and appropriate accommodation can be made by providing alternative ways to meet the program outcomes. Academic Accommodation is not reasonable if it imposes undue hardship.

Academic Accommodations do not:

- reduce the student's responsibility to meet academic standards;
- remove or alter essential course/program content or course/program standards and requirements;
- remove or alter the fundamental requirements for evaluation and independent demonstration of knowledge and skills; or
- diminish the academic integrity of the College's programs.

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Disability For the purpose of this policy, disability includes “physical disability or mental disability” as defined in s. 3(l) of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. A disability may be long-term, short-term, or recurring.

Student is anyone applying to or registered in College programs, and participating in College courses, programs, events or activities.

Undue Hardship exists when the costs of providing the requested accommodation would be disproportionate and place an undue burden on the College, taking into account factors including the following:

- significant alteration of the fundamental nature of the program or service;
- financial costs of Academic Accommodation;
- organizational convenience which has a substantial effect on the College due to disruption of operations;
- significant adverse impact on learning opportunities for other students;
- risks of safety or health hazards to other persons or property.

POLICY

The College will provide reasonable and appropriate Academic Accommodations in its programs and services when requested by a student whose disability adversely impacts his/her access to or participation in programs and services. The College will not provide Academic Accommodations which result in undue hardship.

Students, staff, and faculty share responsibility for planning, implementing and monitoring Academic Accommodations in accordance with the Academic Accommodations procedure.

Students are responsible to:

1. self-identify a disability to the College;
2. request specific Academic Accommodations;
3. provide comprehensive disability information supporting each Academic Accommodation request;
4. participate in Academic Accommodation planning, implementation, and monitoring; and
5. meet academic requirements of the Program.

The College is responsible to:

1. support students in self-identifying a disability and requesting Academic Accommodations;
2. request comprehensive disability information supporting each Academic Accommodation;

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3. lead the planning, implementation, and monitoring of Academic Accommodations;
4. maintain the academic standards for all programs;
5. ensure academic standards reflect bona-fide occupational requirements where applicable; and
6. evaluate whether a requested accommodation results in undue hardship.

Any appeals of a decision relating to accommodation of disabilities shall be dealt with under the College's Student Appeals Policy.

POLICY SUPPORTS

PROCEDURES

Academic Accommodations Procedures

RELATED MATERIALS

[Nova Scotia Human Rights Act](#)
www.disabilityservices.nsc.ca

RELATED POLICIES

Privacy Policy
Academic Policy
Student Appeals Policy
Respectful Learning and Workplace Environment Policy
Academic Climate Policy

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