

## IEPs and Post-Secondary Education at College/University

If you have an IEP, you are supported by Program Support at St. Mary. Once you transition to Post-Secondary, your support is through **Office of Students with Disabilities\*** at the College/University. Incoming students will not automatically receive the same accommodations at college or university that they received at high school. To discuss available accommodations, students should contact the OSD at the post-secondary school directly.

Points to Consider	Secondary School	College/University
<b>Access to education for students with disabilities is regulated by ...</b>	The Education Act	The Charter of Rights and Freedoms and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act
<b>To show that a student has a disability, they must ...</b>	Have an IEP that can be based on a formal diagnosis or an informal identification	Have recent documentation (3-5 years old) of their disability (for students with LD, a full psycho-educational assessment is often required) *This may occur at the post-secondary level.
<b>The decision to disclose one's disability is made by ...</b>	Your parent or guardian (until you're 18)	You
<b>If you don't tell your teacher/professor directly that you have a disability ...</b>	They'll find out anyways, from your Program Support Teacher	They won't know
<b>To decide which accommodations students need ...</b>	Teachers can recommend various accommodations to students (often all students with learning difficulties have access to the same accommodations)	Disability Services advisors will review your documentation and only choose specific accommodations that match your specific learning profile
<b>To inform teachers of accommodations ...</b>	The special education teacher provides each classroom teacher with IEPs for all of their students	Students must give each of their professors/instructors a list of their accommodations
<b>Teachers/professors will know your specific disability ...</b>	Always – your identification/diagnosis is written right on your IEP beside your list of accommodations	Always – your identification/diagnosis is written right on your IEP beside your list of accommodation
<b>The cost of assessments and assistive technology is provided by ...</b>	The school board	You (if you qualify for OSAP, there is funding available)

<http://www.transitionresourceguide.ca/sites/transitionresourceguide.ca/files/chart-of-differences-between-high-school-and-college-university.pdf>

\*Ontario colleges and universities use different names for their office which provides services to students with disabilities. Many of the names of these offices use the word 'disability' or 'accessibility', such as Disability Services Office or Accessibility Centre. The word 'accessibility' is becoming more commonly used, as it reflects that the emphasis should be on the environment rather than the individual to adapt and become accessible.

See Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario for an overview: <http://www.ldao.ca/ldadhd-resources/programs-services/>

# Resource Guide for Students with Disabilities: Transition to Post-Secondary Education

<http://www.transitionresourceguide.ca/>

What do you need to know before you head off to college or university? Learn about your rights and responsibilities, how to advocate for yourself, what financial aid is available and more.

## **GETTING STARTED**



Let us help you prepare for your transition to post-secondary education. We'll walk you through the steps to take and how to best take advantage of the information provided on this website.

## **CHOOSING A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY**



As you start applying to schools, you'll have to decide whether you are headed to college or university. Learn about some of the differences between the two, and how to choose the best option for your skills and interests.

## **RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES**



Did you know the laws that govern accommodations for persons with disabilities are different in post-secondary than they are in elementary and high school? Learn about your legal rights, as well as what your responsibilities are, in order to be able to properly arrange your accommodations and advocate for yourself.

## **ADVOCACY AND DISCLOSURE**



Now that you know what your rights and responsibilities are, learn how to advocate for yourself with professors and fellow classmates, and tips about disclosing your disability.

## **OFFICE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**



The Office for Students with Disabilities is your main resource for accommodations and support at post-secondary school. Learn how to register with their office, what types of documentation they will require and more.

## **SUPPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE AT POST- SECONDARY**



Every college and university offers support services to their students. Learn about some of the common services, and how they can help lead you to success.

## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**



Paying for school is quite expensive, especially when you have additional costs such as specialized equipment or services. However, there is a lot of funding out there - from government loans and grants to scholarships and bursaries specifically for students with disabilities.

## **RESIDENCE AND CAMPUS ACCESSIBILITY**



Learn about accessibility and accommodations in residences, as well as on campus and getting around on local transit.