



Student Accessibility Services (SAS)

Ontario Tech University





Land Acknowledgement

Ontario Tech University is located on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation which is covered under the Williams Treaties. We are grateful to share this land as treaty people who learn, work and live in the community with each other.



Locations



North Campus

2000 Simcoe St. N, Oshawa ON

- Student Accessibility Services – Shawenjigewining Hall Stepped Care Suite (SHA 320)
- Test Centre & Integrated Services - Shawenjigewining Hall (SHA 343A)

Downtown Campus

61 Charles St., Oshawa ON

- Student Accessibility Services – Second Floor Stepped Care Suite (CHA 218)
- Test Centre & Integrated Services – Second Floor (CHA 236)





Student Accessibility Services (SAS)

"Accessibility is the cornerstone of inclusion. When every student can fully participate, the entire educational community benefits."



What does Student Accessibility Services (SAS) do?

- Provide academic accommodations to students with permanent, prolonged or persistent, and temporary disabilities.
 - A Learning Disability/Disorder,
 - Neurodiversity, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD),
 - A chronic health or mental health condition,
 - A physical disability or impairment,
 - An Acquired Brain Injury, or post-concussive syndrome,
 - A sensory disability or impairment such as blindness, deafness, or hard of hearing,
 - An acute injury related to athletics or accidents.
- Accommodation plans are intended to reduce barriers and enable full participation in the learning environment.
- Accommodation plans are highly individualized and are developed in collaboration with students based on medical documentation regarding functional limitations.



Accessibility & Accommodations Specialists (AAS)

One on one support

- Specialist who knows a great deal about disability and accessibility
- Meets with you when you register with SAS
- Creates your accommodation letters to send to your faculty
- Offers learning strategy and disability advising supports
- Can refer you to other services



Services and Support

- Accommodated testing arrangements in our Test Centre (and virtually)
- Alternative formats of course materials
- Assistive Technology training and support
- Note-taking assistance
- Ergonomic equipment
- One-on-one support
- Peer Coaches to help with scheduling, study skills and more
- Sign Language Interpretation (ASL)
- Placement accommodations
- Connection to other campus supports (Student Learning Centre, Career Services, Student Mental Health Services)



Differences Between High School and University

High School

- Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) or IPRCs
- Teachers manage accommodations
- Teachers are aware of diagnosis
- Curriculum may be modified
- Increased parental involvement

University

- Individualized Accommodation Plans
- Students manage accommodations (with supports)
- Diagnosis confidential
- Curriculum is not modified
- Increased student independence



Accommodations...

- Are individualized, disability-related, and based on medical documentation.
- Do not create an advantage
- Do not modify the university's academic standards.
- Do not alter the core requirements or outcomes of a program.
- May be updated, if needed.
- Are informed by the [Ontario Human Rights Commission Policy on Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities](#)

Summer Transition Program

- Accessibility Summer Programming aims to help students who register with SAS prepare for their first year with our direct support.
 - Occurs in late August (exact dates TBD)
- By attending SAS Summer Transition Program, students can:
 - Connect with other registered SAS students,
 - Learn more about our services,
 - Meet our SAS staff and student coaches,
 - Learn about other resources offered through Student Life,
 - Learn about residence, financial aid and important information to ensure your academic success,
 - Parent(s)/guardian(s) are welcome to attend!
- STAY TUNED - More information will be posted on our website in the coming months:
<https://studentlife.ontariotechu.ca/summer-transition-programs/summer-transition-programs.php>



Registering with SAS

- **4-Step Registration Process:**

1. Complete Student Intake Form (available on our website)
2. Collect Disability Documentation
 - Acceptable forms of documentation: Psycho-educational assessments, ASD assessments, neuropsychological assessments, OSAP Disability Verification Form, and the SAS Documentation of Disability Form.
3. Submit Documents via email to studentaccessibility@ontariotechu.ca
4. Attend Intake Appointment with Accessibility and Accommodations Specialist
 - Can take place in-person or via Google Meet
 - Parent/guardian is welcome to attend with student consent

- **For more information, visit our website:** <https://studentlife.ontariotechu.ca/current-students/accessibility/students/new-students/index.php>



Test Centre & Integrated Services (TCIS)



How does the Test Centre Help YOU!

Our Mission:

To **ENSURE** that you receive the necessary support and accommodations for your quizzes, midterms, final exams, and online assessments.

- ❖ Navigating your course assessments can be overwhelming
- ❖ We are here to make your journey smoother



"Diversity is being invited to the party. Inclusion is being asked to dance. Accessibility is ensuring everyone can access the dance floor."
- Verna Myers

Types of Assessments Test Centre Manages

On-campus assessments

- Our team arranges suitable spaces that will satisfy the specific needs of your accommodations.
- Our dedicated invigilators supervise the entire process and are available to provide immediate support as required, ensuring a smooth and comfortable testing experience each time.

Online assessments

- TCIS will connect directly with your course instructor(s) or administrator(s) to ensure that your applicable time-based accommodations—including additional writing time and break time—are applied. Extra time will also be added to Canvas for you, if applicable.



What Does Test Centre Offer

(based on SAS accommodations)

Extra Time:

Because everyone's pace is unique, we ensure you have the time you need to shine.

Private Rooms & Noise Cancelling Headsets

Say goodbye to distractions and hello to a serene testing environment tailored just for you.

Alternative Lighting:

Find your perfect study ambiance with lighting options that suit your disability-related needs.

Accommodated Exam Writing Times:

Your tests, midterms, and exams are synced with your accommodations, ensuring you have the support you need to excel.



True or False?

In Ontario, approximately 12 percent of students in post-secondary are registered with a disability office.

True!

True or False?

In post-secondary, your professors receive your accommodation plan which includes your diagnoses.



False -

**Your medical information remains confidential
within your school's Accessibility Office.
Professors only receive accommodation-related
information.**

True or False?

When you register for accommodations in post-secondary, you can only meet with a representative once to set up your accommodation plan.



False -

**The level of support you receive from your
Accessibility Office depends on your comfort level
and individual needs!**



What is the first step to accessing accommodations in post-secondary?

What is the first step to accessing accommodations in post-secondary?

- Contact your college/university's Student Accessibility Office!
- Provide documentation related to your disability
- **For more information, visit our website:**

<https://studentlife.ontariotechu.ca/current-students/accessibility/students/new-students/index.p>

How can post-secondary schools improve their accessibility?

How can post-secondary schools improve their accessibility?

- Environmental barriers
- Universal Design for Learning
- Reducing stigma of disability and educating community and faculty members
- What do you think?



**What are you most nervous about for
the transition to post-secondary?**



Student Accessibility Services
studentaccessibilityservices@ontariotechu.ca

Test Centre
testcentre@ontariotechu.ca

Contact Information & Questions?