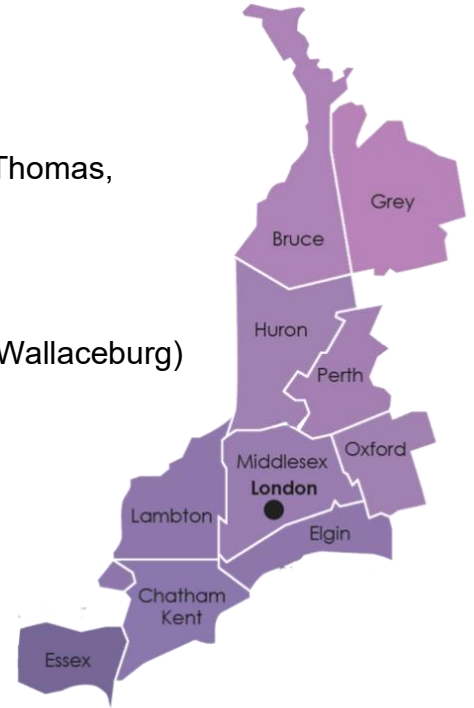


Accessibility Guide for Post-Secondary Students with Epilepsy in Southwestern Ontario

Created by Bryn Tannar and Hamzah Algodí, partnered with Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario

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Introduction

Navigating post-secondary education while managing epilepsy presents unique challenges that can feel overwhelming at times. This guide is designed to serve as a comprehensive resource for students with epilepsy in Southwestern Ontario, offering clear information on available academic supports, accommodations, and wellness resources tailored to your needs.

Recognizing that each individual's experience with epilepsy is unique, we acknowledge the distinct hurdles you may face, whether it's coping with unpredictable seizures, managing medication effects, or balancing the demands of coursework with self-care. Our goal is to provide not only practical guidance but also reassurance and encouragement, reminding you that you are not alone in this journey.

Importantly, post-secondary institutions are legally required to support you. As long as you have a formal diagnosis, you are entitled to accommodations based on the impact of your condition, without the need to disclose every detail of your diagnosis. This guide will help you understand your rights and the processes involved in accessing the accommodations you deserve, ensuring that your educational environment is as supportive and inclusive as possible.

It is also important to recognize the nuanced differences between the supports available in primary or secondary schools versus those in post-secondary institutions. In schools governed by the Education Act, accommodations are typically mandated and delivered within a highly structured framework, with clear guidelines set by school boards. In contrast, post-secondary education operates on a model that emphasizes greater autonomy and self-advocacy. Here, the legal responsibility to accommodate is based on your documented need rather than a one-size-fits-all approach. While you are not required to disclose your full diagnosis, you do need to provide sufficient documentation to illustrate how epilepsy affects your academic performance.

This shift reflects the increased responsibility placed on you as a post-secondary student to actively engage in the process of securing the appropriate supports for your individual circumstances. By using this guide, you're taking a positive step towards a more accessible and successful academic experience.

Who to Contact

Accessibility Education at Western

- Phone: (519) 661-2147
- Fax: (519) 850-2584
- Email: aew@uwo.ca
- Location: 4th floor of the Western Student Services Building (WSSB). WSSB is between the University Community Centre (UCC) and the Weldon Library.
- Website: https://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

How to Access Academic Accommodations

To access Academic Accommodations at Western University, you will need to:

1. **Complete the [Online Registration Form](#)**
2. **Provide [Supporting Documentation](#)**
3. **Attend an Intake & Onboarding Appointment:** Western will contact you after they have reviewed your primary documentation for registration, and this appointment can be done virtually or in person.

What Academic Accommodations Are Available

Accommodations are made on a case-by-case basis. It depends on what is recommended by your healthcare professional, the nature of your coursework, and discussion with Accessible Education. Some examples of accommodations include:

- Flexibility with exam scheduling, attendance, or deadlines
- Note-taking support to minimize stress during lectures
- Access to quiet spaces for studying or exam purposes
- On-campus transportation for students with mobility or health-related challenges
- Assistance in creating an emergency response plan
- Testing Accommodations
- Assistive Technology
- Classroom Support
- Learning & Study Support
- Peer Programs

Note: Accommodations provided will depend on your course requirements. There needs to be a balance between your accommodation needs and your course needs. For instance, if your course is evaluating grammar, then a Voice-To-Text accommodation might not be an option.

Required Documentation

Documentation is not about proving a disability, but about understanding its functional impacts and supporting the requested accommodations.

The preferred option is to have:

- The Medical Disability Form
 - Completed by a licensed, regulated health care practitioner who is familiar with your condition and licensed to make an epilepsy diagnosis. *The certificate of disability must outline functional impacts on academics in adulthood.*

OR

- A detailed letter from an appropriate health care practitioner (e.g. family doctor/ neurologist) that outlines the functional impacts of your disability and your accommodation needs.

In general, documentation submitted should:

- **State the Nature of the Disability and how it affects university life**
- Explain how the accommodations address the disability's impact.
- **Specify Triggers** that could worsen the condition.
- Be recent — generally, an evaluation should be made within the **last three years**
- Made by an **appropriate health professional** (family physician, specialist or nurse practitioner) who is familiar enough with your case.

Health & Wellness Resources

Students with epilepsy may benefit from on-campus services offered through Wellness & Well-being. These services include:

Health or Wellness Appointment

- Counselling Support
- Group Care and Workshops
- Peer-to-Peer Support
- Same-day mental health appointments are available.
- There is also after-hours crisis support

For further assistance, Accessible Education and Wellness & Well-being are available to support both students and those developing epilepsy resources.

Financial Resources

Although Western University does not have any epilepsy-specific bursaries, Western has a robust Financial Aid program that helps students, based on financial need, to assist with the costs of their academic year.

- **Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP):** Includes grants specifically for students with permanent disabilities.
- **Western Bursaries**
- **Scholarships & Award**
- **Bursary for Students with Disabilities (BSWD):** Available through OSAP, this bursary helps cover the cost of disability-related equipment and services.
- **Work Study Program:** Provides part-time employment opportunities on campus for students in financial need.

Accessible Education can also assist students in exploring funding options for:

- Tutoring
- Therapy or counselling services
- Assistive software
- Noise-canceling headphones

How to Apply

Reach out to the [Financial Aid Office](#) or [Accessible Education](#) for guidance on eligibility and application processes.

Academic Support

King's University College provides specialized support through its Accessibility Services team, ensuring students with disabilities, including epilepsy, have equitable access to academic resources. The college emphasizes dignity, individualization, and inclusion in its accommodation process.

Kings Accessibility Services

- Location: Wemple Building, Room 151.
- Phone: 519-930-4640.
- Email: acsd@kings.uwo.ca
- Walk-in appointments are available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM (registration begins at 1 PM). Note: Walk-in services are unavailable during summer months or reading weeks.
- Website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/accessibility-services>

Available Academic Accommodations

King's offers a variety of academic accommodations tailored to individual needs. Examples include:

- **Classroom Accommodations:**
 - Access to lecture notes or materials in advance.
 - Permission to use recording devices during lectures.
 - Note-taking assistance or access to peer notes.
 - Provision of course materials in alternative formats (e.g., digital text, audio files).
- **Examination Accommodations:**
 - Extended time for tests and exams.
 - Quiet, distraction-free environments for test-taking.
 - Use of assistive technologies such as screen readers or speech-to-text software.
 - Alternate exam formats (e.g., oral exams or large print).
- **Other Accommodations:**
 - Flexibility with assignment deadlines when appropriate.
 - Emergency response planning for students with medical conditions like epilepsy.

How to Access and Apply for Accommodations

Students seeking accommodations must follow these steps:

1. **Complete the Registration Form**
 - Fill out the online registration form available on the Accessibility Services webpage. You will need your Western username, student number, and Western email.
2. **Submit Documentation**
 - Upload at least one piece of supporting documentation during the intake process (see "Documentation Required" below).
3. **Schedule an Initial Appointment**
 - After submitting the registration form, schedule an appointment with an Accessibility Counsellor by completing the online Appointment Request Form.

Required Documentation

There is **one standard medical form** provided by Accessibility Services that must be completed by a licensed health care professional, qualified to diagnose the condition and have in-depth knowledge of a student's condition, and to comment on **associated difficulties and functional limitations** that may arise during university. Disclosure of diagnosis is optional.

- **Medical Documentation for Accommodation Services Form**

General Documentation Requirements:

- A statement confirming the presence of a disability and its **functional implications for university life**. It should **support accommodations** that are being requested and specify situations or activities that may worsen a student's condition. Documentation that includes **recommendations for accommodation(s)** is appreciated.

Specific Disabilities:

- For physical/medical conditions like **epilepsy**:
 - Submit a completed Medical Documentation for Accessibility Services Form from a regulated health practitioner familiar with your condition.
- For learning disabilities:
 - Provide a current Psycho-Educational Assessment report completed by a registered psychologist or psychological associate (generally no more than three years old).

Interim Accommodations:

Students awaiting updated documentation may qualify for temporary accommodations by submitting older records such as Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) or previous assessments.

Wellness Resources

King's offers additional wellness support:

1. **Counselling Services**: Free mental health counselling is available to all students through Student Affairs.
2. Emergency Planning: Accessibility Services collaborates with students requiring emergency response plans due to medical conditions like epilepsy.

Financial Resources

Students with disabilities may qualify for financial assistance through:

- **Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)**: Includes grants specifically for students with permanent disabilities.
- **King's Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries**: Additional funding opportunities are available through King's financial aid office. Students with disabilities may qualify for additional support.
- **Work Study Program**: Offers part-time campus jobs to students in financial need, including those with disabilities.
- **Bursary for Students with Disabilities (BSWD)**: Covers costs related to disability accommodations, such as assistive devices or services.

This guide ensures that students with epilepsy at King's University College can navigate their academic journey while accessing necessary support effectively.

General Note

Fanshawe College provides consistent accessibility services across all campuses, including regional locations. Students at regional campuses can access the same resources and accommodations as those at the London campus, either in person or virtually.

Academic Support

Fanshawe College offers comprehensive support for students with disabilities through its Accessibility Services and other specialized facilities:

- Accessibility Services: Provides accommodations, counselling, and support tailored to individual needs.
- Inclusive Technology Centre (ITC): Offers training and consultation on assistive and adaptive technologies.
- Test Centre: Supports students requiring testing accommodations in a controlled environment.

Helpful Contacts

- Accessibility Services:
 - Location: Room F2010, London Campus.
 - Phone: 519-452-4282.
 - Fax: 519-453-2826.
 - Email: accessibility@fanshawec.ca.
 - Website: <https://www.fanshawec.ca/students/support/accessibility>
- Inclusive Technology Centre (ITC):
 - Location: Room F2003, London Campus.
- Test Centre:
 - Location: Room F3005, London Campus.

Students at regional campuses can contact their assigned Accessibility Counsellor for local support or access virtual services.

Available Academic Accommodations

Fanshawe College provides a variety of accommodations based on individual needs. Examples include:

- **Classroom Accommodations:**
 - Note-taking assistance or access to peer notes.
 - Permission to record lectures.
 - Access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g., digital text, large print).
 - Preferential seating arrangements.
- **Examination Accommodations:**
 - Extended time for tests and exams.
 - Quiet, distraction-free environments for test-taking.
 - Use of assistive technologies (e.g., screen readers or speech-to-text software).
 - Alternate exam formats (e.g., oral exams or large print).
- **Other Accommodations:**
 - Flexibility with assignment deadlines when appropriate.
 - Accessible housing options for students with medical needs.

How to Access and Apply for Accommodations

Students seeking accommodations must follow these steps:

1. Compile Documentation:

- Gather documentation from a licensed healthcare professional that outlines the disability and its functional impacts (see "Documentation Required" below).

2. Pay Tuition Deposit:

- Pay the \$250 non-refundable tuition deposit to activate your FanshaweOnline (FOL) account.

3. Register Online:

- Log in to FanshaweOnline and complete the Accessibility Services registration form under the "Resources" menu.

4. Submit Documentation:

- Upload documentation during registration or submit it directly to Accessibility Services.

5. Meet with an Accessibility Counsellor:

- After submitting your registration form, you will be assigned an Accessibility Counsellor who will work with you to develop an individualized accommodation plan.

6. Activate Accommodations Each Term:

- Students must log in to the Accessibility Online Services portal each term to confirm their accommodations and notify instructors.

Documentation Required

Students must provide documentation from a qualified professional that outlines their disability and its functional impacts. Requirements include:

General Documentation Requirements:

- A statement confirming the **presence of a disability**.
- Details on **functional limitations** that justify specific accommodations.
- Documentation must be current (typically within six months).

Examples of Acceptable Documentation:

- For OSAP-eligible students:
 - **OSAP Disability Verification Form**
 - A secondary school Individualized Education Plan (IEP) may also be acceptable for learning disabilities.
- For non-OSAP students (e.g., international or out-of-province):
 - **Confidential Disability Information Form** completed by a regulated healthcare professional

Interim Accommodations:

Students awaiting updated documentation may qualify for temporary accommodations by submitting any available records, such as:

- High school IEPs or older assessments.

Wellness Resources

Fanshawe College offers additional wellness resources:

1. Counselling Services: Free mental health counselling is available for all students.
2. Inclusive Technology Centre: Provides hands-on training for assistive technologies.
3. External Resources: Organizations like Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario offer community-based support and education.

Financial Resources

Students with disabilities may qualify for financial assistance through:

- **Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)**: Includes grants specifically for students with permanent disabilities.
- **Fanshawe Bursaries and Scholarships**: Additional funding opportunities are available through King's financial aid office. Students with disabilities may qualify for additional support.

- **Reduced Course Load Tuition Policy:** Students with disabilities who require a reduced course load may qualify for tuition adjustments.
- **BSWD (Bursary for Students with Disabilities):** Available through OSAP, this bursary offsets costs related to accommodations.

Academic Support

- **Student Accessibility Services (SAS):** Provides individualized support for students with documented disabilities, including epilepsy. Services include assistive technologies, academic accommodations, and guidance on OSAP specific to students with disabilities.
- **Learning Strategists: SAS advisors** help students develop strategies for academic success and provide support tailored to individual needs.

Helpful Contacts

- **Student Accessibility Services (SAS):**
 - Location: Dillon Hall, Room 117 (Lower Level), 401 Sunset Avenue, Windsor, ON N9B 3P4.
 - Phone: 519-253-3000 ext. 6172.
 - Fax: 519-973-7095.
 - TTY: 519-973-7091.
 - Email: sas@uwindsor.ca
 - Website: <https://www.uwindsor.ca/studentaccessibility/>
- **Key Staff:**
 - Katia Benoit, Director (ext. 3952, katia@uwindsor.ca).
 - Accessibility Advisors:
 - Anthony Gomez (ext. 3485, gomez1@uwindsor.ca).
 - Joycelyn Lorito (ext. 3935, jlorigo@uwindsor.ca).
 - Kari Scott (ext. 3469, karis@uwindsor.ca).
 - David Soderlund (ext. 3298, ryansode@uwindsor.ca).

Available Academic Accommodations

Academic accommodations at the University of Windsor are tailored to individual needs based on documentation provided by the student. These accommodations aim to ensure equitable access to education and include:

- **Classroom Accommodations:**
 - Assistance from a note-taker.
 - Preferential seating (e.g., ergonomic modifications or seating at the front of the class).
 - Advance provision of written materials, such as lecture notes, PowerPoint presentations, or overheads.
 - Textbooks or articles in alternative formats (e.g., Braille, large print, PDF, or electronic text).
 - Permission to use audio recording devices during lectures.
- **Examination Accommodations:**
 - Extended time to complete exams.
 - Quiet, distraction-free environments for test-taking.
 - Alternative exam formats (e.g., large print or contrasting text).
 - Assistance from a reader or scribe during exams.
 - Use of assistive technologies (e.g., magnification devices or computers for essay exams), contingent on demonstrated proficiency.
- **Special Housing Accommodations:**
 - Students with documented disabilities can request special housing arrangements through Residence Services.

How to Access and Apply for Accommodations

Students seeking accommodations must follow these steps:

1. Complete the Intake Process:

- Fill out the [intake form](#) via the Accessible Information Management (AIM) system.

- Once submitted, an advisor will contact the student to schedule an appointment (in-person or virtual) to discuss their needs and potential accommodations.
- 2. Provide Documentation:**
 - Submit current documentation from a regulated healthcare professional (e.g., physician, psychologist, psychiatrist) that **confirms the diagnosis** and **outlines functional limitations** requiring accommodation.
 - Interim accommodations may be granted while waiting for updated documentation.
 - 3. Meet with an Advisor:**
 - During the intake appointment, students will discuss their disability-related needs and finalize accommodation plans.
 - 4. Re-register Each Term:**
 - Returning students must re-register each term through AIM. Advisors will send updated accommodation letters to instructors each term

Documentation Required

Students must provide specific documentation based on their disability type. General requirements include:

- A statement confirming an ongoing diagnosed disability.
- Details on functional limitations and how they impact academic performance.
- Documentation must be current and provided by a licensed healthcare professional.
- Students awaiting updated documentation may submit older assessments (e.g., Individualized Education Plans or out-of-date medical records) to receive interim accommodations for up to one academic year.

Wellness Resources

- Counselling Services: The university offers mental health support through its counselling services.
- **Wellness Skill Building**: The university has resources on several coping and healing skills, such as creating a coping plan and regulating your nervous system.
- **I.M. Well**: available to full-time UWindsor students. Offers free, confidential counselling to full-time undergraduate students and their families through the UWSA Health & Dental Plan, even after graduation.

Financial Resources

- Guidance on the **Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)** specific to students with disabilities is available through SAS advisors.
- **Additional bursaries or grants may be available for students with documented disabilities**; inquire directly with SAS or financial aid offices.
- **Scholarships for Students with Disabilities**: The university offers scholarships and bursaries targeted at students registered with Student Accessibility Services.
- **BSWD (Bursary for Students with Disabilities)**: Helps cover costs associated with disability-related accommodations.

Academic Support

Wilfrid Laurier University (Laurier) provides comprehensive support through its Accessible Learning Centre (ALC). The ALC works with students to develop individualized accommodation plans that ensure equitable access to education while maintaining academic standards.

Accessible Learning Centre (ALC)

- Location: Waterloo Campus - 202 Regina Street North, Room 1-102; Brantford Campus - Grand River Hall, Room 100.
- Phone: Waterloo Campus - 519-884-0710 ext. 3086; Brantford Campus - 519-756-8228 ext. 5885.
- Email: accessiblelearning@wlu.ca
- Website: [Accessible Learning page on Laurier's website.](#)

Available Academic Accommodations

Accommodations at Laurier are tailored to meet the specific needs of students based on documentation and consultations. Examples include:

- **Classroom Accommodations:**
 - Access to lecture materials in advance (e.g., PowerPoint slides, notes).
 - Permission to use recording devices during lectures.
 - Note-taking assistance or access to peer notes.
 - Alternative formats for course materials (e.g., digital text, large print).
- **Examination Accommodations:**
 - Extended time for tests and exams.
 - Access to a quiet, distraction-free testing environment.
 - Use of assistive technologies, such as screen readers or speech-to-text software.
 - Alternate exam formats (e.g., oral exams or large print).
- **Other Accommodations:**
 - Flexibility with assignment deadlines when appropriate.
 - Accessible housing options for students with physical or medical needs.
 - Residence and Housing are committed to accommodating your [accessibility needs](#)

How to Access and Apply for Accommodations

The process for accessing accommodations at Laurier involves several steps:

1. **Complete the Online Registration Process:**
 - Visit the ALC's website and fill out the Accessible Learning registration form.
 - Submit any existing documentation during the registration process.
2. **Submit Documentation:**
 - Provide documentation from a licensed healthcare professional that outlines the diagnosis and functional limitations related to the disability (see "Documentation Required" below).
3. **Attend an Intake Appointment:**
 - After submitting your application, you will be contacted by an ALC consultant to schedule an intake meeting. During this meeting:
 - Your needs will be discussed in detail.
 - An individualized accommodation plan will be developed.
4. **Activate Accommodations Each Term:**
 - Students must log in to the ALC's online system at the start of each term to confirm their accommodations and notify instructors.

Documentation Required

Laurier requires documentation from a qualified healthcare professional that clearly outlines the student's disability and its functional impacts on academic performance. Specific requirements include:

General Documentation Requirements:

- A statement confirming the presence of a disability and its impact on learning.
- Functional limitations that justify specific accommodations.
- Documentation must be current (typically within six months).

Examples of Acceptable Documentation:

1. Medical Verification Forms:
 - Accessible Learning Disability Verification Form (specific forms available for physical, medical, or attention disabilities).
2. Psycho-Educational Assessments:
 - Must include percentile scores, diagnostic statements, and interpretation of results.
3. Letters from Healthcare Providers:
 - Must be on official letterhead, signed, and include the provider's license number.

Qualified Professionals:

Documentation must be completed by a licensed professional, such as:

- Neurologists or neuropsychologists (for epilepsy-related conditions).
- Family physicians or nurse practitioners.
- Psychologists or psychiatrists.

Interim Accommodations:

Students awaiting updated documentation may qualify for interim accommodations by submitting any available records, such as:

- High school Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).
- Outdated psycho-educational assessments.
- Letters from healthcare providers.

Interim accommodations are temporary and typically last one or two terms.

Wellness Resources

Laurier offers additional wellness resources to support students:

1. Counselling Services: Free mental health counselling is available for all students.
2. Student Wellness Centre: Provides medical services, mental health support, and wellness programming.
3. Mental Health Support Services: Free counselling sessions are offered through the Wellness Centre.
4. Accessible Learning Centre Support Groups: Includes peer support programs and workshops tailored to managing chronic conditions like epilepsy.

Financial Resources

Students with disabilities may qualify for financial assistance through:

1. **Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP):** Includes grants specifically for students with permanent disabilities.
2. **Laurier Scholarships, Bursaries, and Awards:** Additional funding opportunities are available through Laurier's financial aid office, which includes awards specifically designed for students registered with the Accessible Learning Centre.
3. **University Bursaries for Students with Disabilities (BSWD):** Covers costs of disability-related equipment or services.
4. **Work Study Program:** Provides part-time jobs on campus for students in financial need.

Academic Support

Lambton College provides robust support for students with disabilities through its Accessibility Centre. The college is committed to fostering an inclusive learning environment that respects the dignity and independence of all students, in compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and the Ontario Human Rights Code. [[Lambton College Accessibility Policies Page](#)]

Accessibility Centre:

- Location: Main Campus, Room B1-240.
- Phone: 519-542-7751 ext. 3413.
- Email: accessibilitycentre@lambtoncollege.ca
- Website: <https://www.lambtoncollege.ca/student-supports/accessibility-centre>

Available Academic Accommodations

Lambton College offers a range of academic accommodations tailored to meet individual needs. Examples include:

- **Classroom Accommodations:**
 - Permission to use [recording devices](#) during lectures.
 - [Note-taking assistance](#) or access to peer notes.
 - Provision of course materials in [alternative formats](#) (e.g., large print, audio files, or digital text).
- **Examination Accommodations:**
 - Extended time for tests and exams.
 - Quiet, distraction-free environments for test-taking.
- **Technology and Learning Strategies**
 - Text to voice
 - Voice to text
 - Word prediction
 - Homophone checking
 - Mind mapping
- **Parking:**
 - Designated spots for individuals with disabilities. Contact the [Parking Office](#) to inquire about using these spaces
 - [226-313-7689](tel:226-313-7689)
 - Room B0-152
 - parkingservices@lambtoncollege.ca

How to Access and Apply for Accommodations

Students seeking accommodations at Lambton College must follow these steps:

1. **Meet with an Accessibility Counsellor:**

- Make an appointment with the counsellor in the Accessibility Centre at ac@lambtoncollege.ca

2. **Submit Documentation:**

- Provide documentation from a licensed healthcare professional that outlines the disability and its functional impacts (see "Documentation Required" below).

3. **Obtaining Specific Accessibility Services**

- Following the discussion, the counsellor will prepare a recommendation of an accommodation plan for the faculty and sign the plan.

- Academic Accommodations will be determined during a student-counsellor consultation, and accommodations will be made based on documentation provided and with the intent to minimize the effects of the disability.
- 4. Activate Accommodations Each Term:**
 - Students must review and renew their CAAP at the start of each term to ensure accommodations remain relevant.
 - 5. Retroactive Requests:**
 - Students can request retroactive accommodations in exceptional circumstances if they face unexpected barriers during their studies.

Documentation Required

Lambton College requires documentation from a qualified healthcare professional that outlines the student's disability and its functional impacts on academic performance.

General Documentation Requirements:

- A statement confirming the presence of a disability.
- Details on functional limitations that justify specific accommodations.
- Documentation must be current (typically within six months).

Examples of Acceptable Documentation:

- 1. Medical Information Request Form (MIRF):**
 - This form, available through the Accessibility Centre, must be completed by a regulated healthcare professional (e.g., physician, psychologist, psychiatrist).
- 2. Letters from Healthcare Providers:**
 - Must be on official letterhead, signed, and include details about functional limitations.
- 3. Psycho-Educational Assessments:**
 - Required for learning disabilities; must include diagnostic statements and interpretation of results.

Interim Accommodations:

Students awaiting updated documentation may qualify for temporary accommodations by submitting any available records, such as:

- High school Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).
- Older medical assessments or reports.

Wellness Resources

Lambton College offers additional wellness resources:

- 1. Counselling Services:** These services are available by appointment. For more information, contact counselling@lambtoncollege.ca.
- 2. Emergency Planning:** The Accessibility Centre works with students who may require emergency response plans due to conditions like epilepsy.
- 3. Peer-to-Peer Support:** The Lion's Mind offers peer-to-peer mental wellness support Monday to Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., in room B1-230

Financial Resources

Students with disabilities may qualify for financial assistance through:

- 1. Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP):** Includes grants specifically for students with permanent disabilities.
- 2. Course Load Reductions and OSAP**
 - For OSAP purposes only, full-time status is a 40% course load and above, based on the student's term of study.

- Domestic students who have an approved course load reduction as an accommodation with the Accessibility Services department have the option to reduce their course load without being financially penalized.
3. **Lambton Scholarships & Bursaries:** Additional funding opportunities are available through Lambton's financial aid office for students with documented disabilities. To apply, students must:
 - Discuss their individual need for the bursary with the accessibility counsellor.
 - Discuss and assess all technical equipment requests with the Learning Strategist.
 - If equipment is requested, the student must obtain three quotes from three different suppliers. If the request is for a service, an estimate of cost from the provider is required.
 - Write a note on how the equipment and/or service will minimize the effects of the disability and contribute to academic success.
 - Complete the bursary form - with the assistance of the accessibility counsellor - and forward it to the Office of the Registrar & Financial Aid Services.
 4. **The cost of a psycho-educational assessment** may be covered by some extended health plans, the Bursary for Students with Disabilities for students who are eligible for OSAP, or through personal finances.
 5. **BSWD (Bursary for Students with Disabilities):** Helps cover the cost of assistive devices or other accommodation-related expenses.

Academic Support

St. Clair College provides extensive support for students with disabilities through its Student Services and Accessibility Centre. The college is committed to fostering an inclusive learning environment, ensuring equitable access to education for all students, in compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

We highly recommend you go through this website: [Welcome to SOAR - A Student Orientation to Accessibility Resources](#)

Helpful Contacts

- South Windsor Campus:
 - Email: studentservices@stclaircollege.ca
 - Phone: 519-972-2727 ext. 4226
- Downtown St. Clair Centre for the Arts (SCCA):
 - Email: downtownstudentservices@stclaircollege.ca
 - Phone: 519-972-2727 ext. 4348
- Chatham Campus:
 - Email: chathamstudentservices@stclaircollege.ca
 - Phone: 519-354-9100 ext. 3306

Available Academic Accommodations

Accommodations at St. Clair College are tailored to individual needs and designed to remove barriers while maintaining academic standards. Examples include:

- **Classroom Accommodations:**
 - Access to lecture notes or materials in advance.
 - Permission to use recording devices during lectures.
 - Note-taking assistance or access to peer notes.
 - Provision of course materials in alternative formats (e.g., large print, audio files, or digital text).
 - Preferential seating arrangements.
- **Examination Accommodations:**
 - Extended time for tests and exams.
 - Quiet, distraction-free environments for test-taking.
 - Use of assistive technologies such as screen readers or speech-to-text software.
 - Alternate exam formats (e.g., oral exams or large print).
- **Other Accommodations:**
 - Flexibility with assignment deadlines, where appropriate.
 - Emergency response planning for students with conditions such as epilepsy.
 - Accessible housing options for students with medical needs.

How to Access and Apply for Accommodations

Students seeking accommodations must follow these steps:

1. Collect Documentation:

- Provide documentation from a licensed healthcare professional that outlines the disability and its functional impacts (see "Documentation Required" below).

2. [Book an Appointment with a Counsellor](#)

- Schedule an appointment with an Accessibility Counsellor to discuss your needs and develop an individualized Academic Accommodation Plan (AAP).

3. Be Prepared to Discuss Your Learning Needs

4. Get Familiar with the College Process

5. Be prepared to ask for help/self-advocate

6. Attend your Orientation

Documentation Required

St. Clair College requires documentation from a qualified healthcare professional that outlines the student's disability and its functional impacts on academic performance. Specific requirements include:

Physical Disabilities: Functional Limitations Form

- Completed by a medical professional who is registered with the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Physical disabilities include deaf/hard of hearing, blind/low vision, medical conditions and physical injuries.

Interim Accommodations:

Students awaiting updated documentation may qualify for temporary accommodations by submitting any available records, such as:

- High school Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).
- Older medical assessments or reports.

Wellness Resources

St. Clair College offers additional wellness resources:

1. Counselling Services: Free mental health counselling is available for all students.
2. Assistive Technologists: Provide training on specialized software and devices such as text-to-speech tools or FM systems.
3. Emergency Planning: The Accessibility Centre works with students who may require emergency response plans due to conditions like epilepsy.

Financial Resources

Students with disabilities may qualify for financial assistance through:

1. **Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP):** Includes grants specifically for students with permanent disabilities.
2. **St. Clair's Bursaries and Scholarships:** Additional funding opportunities are available through St. Clair's financial aid office for students with documented disabilities. Students with disabilities may qualify for specific awards based on financial need or academic performance. Applications are open from October 1 to December 1 annually
3. **Reduced Tuition Fee Policy:** Students with disabilities taking a reduced course load as part of their accommodation plan may qualify for a tuition rebate. This applies to tuition fees only and is available to domestic students enrolled in their final semester

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Academic Support

- **Student Accessibility Services (SAS):** help students who experience disabilities with full and equitable participation in academic life. Their core activity is to help students with academic accommodations by working with students and instructors to determine what is needed
- **Academic Program Counsellors:** have expertise in program requirements and help support you with course selection, graduation and referral to other campus services

Helpful Contacts

- **Ridgetown Campus SAS:**
 - Location: Pestell Student Service Building, room 129, 120 Main Street East, Ridgetown, Ontario N0P 2C0, CA
 - Phone: 519-824-4120 ext.56208 (Student Wellness Front Desk)
 - Email: rcsas@uoguelph.ca
 - Website: <https://www.ridgetownc.com/current/sas/>
- **Academic Program Counsellor:**
 - Email: rcpc@uoguelph.ca
 - Phone: 519-674-1500 ext.63576
 - Office Location: W.R. Reek Building, H104B (lower level, Library)
 - Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 9 am - 4 pm
 - Website: <https://www.ridgetownc.com/current/academic-support/>

Available Academic Accommodations

Accommodations are individualized, based on documentation and specific functional limitations. While not all accommodations are suitable for every course, instructors and students collaborate to determine appropriate solutions. Examples include:

- **Test and Exam Accommodations:**
 - Extra time to write tests
 - A quiet or private room
 - Use of a computer or assistive tech (e.g. screen readers or speech-to-text)
- **Classroom and Lecture Supports:**
 - Access to lecture slides or notes.
 - Permission to audio record lectures
 - Seating arrangements (e.g. near the front or exit).
- **Alternative Format Text:**
 - Digital versions of textbooks, readings, and exams
 - Formats for screen readers, audio playback, or braille
- **Flexibility with Deadlines and Attendance:**
 - Extensions on assignments due to disability-related reasons
 - Adjusted attendance expectations, when needed
- **Other**
 - Navigating campus can be assisted with Accessibility guides and scooters
 - Service animals are permitted per the Animal on Campus Protocol. You need to submit a Recommendation Form for campus and a Housing Accommodation Form for Residence
 - Student Housing at Steckley Hall provides information for accommodation requests.
 - Co-op and Career Services provide workplace information for students with disabilities

How to Access and Apply for Accommodations

Students seeking accommodations must follow these steps:

1. Complete **SAS Application Form**:

- Via the SAS Student Portal. You will need your UOfG login credentials and Student ID. Start this process as early as possible. Recommended to complete by June 15.
- 2. Provide Documentation:**
 - Submit current documentation through the [SAS Student Portal](#)
 - Interim accommodation may be obtained if the documentation does not meet the requirements, but there are [alternative documentations](#)
 - 3. Meet with an SAS Advisor:**
 - After you complete your application, you will be prompted to [book an appointment](#).
 - You will discuss support requirements, activate accommodation eligibility and develop an [accommodation plan](#).
 - 4. Update Accommodation if Needed:**
 - Accommodation may change when disability / academic settings change or when a student requests a review of accommodation plans.

Documentation Required

Students must provide a [Functional Assessment Form](#) for a Chronic Health/Medical Disability verifying the existence of a disability from a regulated health professional:

- Use their [Documentation Guidelines Tool](#) to find what documentation you require.

Wellness Resources

- On-campus services for wellness, primary care, mental health, and crisis support.
- Emergency 24/7 helplines (e.g. Good2Talk, Here 24/7, Suicide Crisis Helpline)
- Crisis Text Line powered by Kids Help Phone (Text UOFG to 686868)
- Good Doctors Virtual Walk-In Clinic (in Pharmasave – 519-674-3400)

Financial Resources

- **Course Load Modifications:** Students can take fewer courses while still being considered a full-time student (for financial aid or immigration status)
- **Reduced Tuition and Fees:** Students who require a reduced course load due to a disability may be eligible for reduced tuition and fees when taking 2.0 credits.
- **Guidance on the [Canada Student Grant for Service and Equipment and the Bursary for Students with Disabilities](#) (BSWD)**
- **[Student Awards Programs](#):** fall, winter, travel and graduation award programs available

Ontario Wide Resources

Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)

Students with disabilities could be eligible for full-time OSAP funding if you're taking 40% or more of a full course load. You must self-identify as having a disability when applying for OSAP to be considered for this benefit. [Log in or register for applications](#)

Additional aid

You can get additional aid to help pay for disability-related educational services and equipment. Through your OSAP application, you can be considered for the:

- [**Canada Student Grant for Students with Disabilities**](#)
 - Could receive up to \$2,800 per school year.
- [**Ontario Bursary for Students with Disabilities \(BSWD\)**](#)
 - Could receive up to \$2,000 per school year.
- [**Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment - Students with Disabilities**](#)
 - If you need education-related services or equipment, you could receive up to \$20,000 per school year.

Find out about other scholarships and bursaries through:

- [**\\$1,500 Epilepsy Ontario Scholarship**](#)
- [**StudentAwards**](#)
- [**ScholarshipsCanada.com**](#)

Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP):

- Offers financial assistance for living expenses to individuals with disabilities who meet income eligibility criteria. Students may also receive funding for medical needs or assistive devices.

Severe Permanent Disability Benefit:

- Provides loan forgiveness to students who are unable to repay their OSAP loans **due to severe permanent disabilities**.

Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario

- Provides resources and advocacy for students with learning disabilities, including strategies for managing co-occurring conditions like epilepsy.

Mental Health Resources

1. [**Good-To-Talk Ontario**](#): 24/7 free, confidential, mental health support for post-secondary students in Ontario.
2. [**Canadian Mental Health Association Ontario**](#): a non-profit charitable organization that provides mental health support across all of Ontario.
3. [**Mindyourmind.ca**](#)
 - An interactive platform providing resources on mental health diagnoses, coping strategies, de-stressing tools, and wellness planning.
4. [**School Mental Health Ontario \(SMHO\)**](#)
 - Provides mental health resources for students, parents, educators and caregivers
 - Supports mental health promotion in schools through strategic plans focused on prevention and early intervention. Educators are trained to identify and refer students struggling with mental health challenges.

Additional Resources

1. Clinic To Community Program ([**Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario**](#))

- Provides comprehensive education and support tailored to students with epilepsy. Services include individualized learning strategies, advocacy within schools, and collaboration with healthcare teams.
2. Postsecondary Counselling Services:
 - Colleges and universities across Ontario offer free short-term counselling services to address issues like test anxiety, academic pressure, or trauma-related challenges.
 3. Emergency Planning:
 - Accessibility Services at postsecondary institutions collaborate with students to develop emergency response plans specific to epilepsy-related concerns.