



Student Accessibility Services (SAS)

Overview of Supports & Services for Students with Disabilities

Our Primary Mandate

SAS supports students with permanent and temporary disabilities and strives to provide an accessible, barrier-free learning environment.

What Is A Disability?

Disability is defined by a functional limitation or impairment that is related to a student's ability to perform the daily activities necessary to participate in post-secondary studies.

(Guide to Your Rights and Responsibilities Under the Human Rights Code, January 2009, and Policy and Guidelines on Disability and the Duty to Accommodate, November 2000, amended December 2009).



Why Provide Support

All students with disabilities **have the right** to equitable education.

Your legal rights to accommodations are based on the:

- ❑ *Canadian Charter of Right & Freedoms*
- ❑ *Ontario Human Rights Code, specifically:*

Section 1: affirms the right to equal treatment in services without discrimination because of disability

Section 17: sets out the Duty to Accommodate

These Disabilities are REAL

...and receiving accommodations does **NOT** give students an advantage!

- ❑ Disability supports are meant to **level the playing field.**
- ❑ For supports to be put in place, the disability must have some impact on access to learning or learning processes.
- ❑ Individual Accommodation Plans (IAP) are meant address specific barriers that are a result of each student's disability.
The IAP is an evolving document.
- ❑ Accommodations are based on official documentation from approved health care professionals such as:
 - Physician, psychologist, neurologist, physiotherapist, audiologist, etc.

Role of SAS

Student Accessibility Services provides...

- ❑ **educational-related** supports for students with disabilities, such as:
 - updated assessments/documentation
 - learning strategies
 - transition supports
 - advocacy skills
 - access to testing and note taking accommodations
 - adaptive technologies
 - referrals to counselling/tutoring/academic supports

- ❑ access to the Bursary for Students with Disabilities (BSWD) for students who are eligible for OSAP

Role of SAS (con't)

SAS supports **both** students with disabilities & faculty in ensuring academic accommodations

Academic accommodations are:

- conditions, services, and/or tools which help to compensate for the effects of a disability in physical access, studying, classroom learning and/or testing and other evaluation
- based upon recommendations **made in student's disability documentation** and **are unique to the individual and specific** to their disability-related needs
- not meant to give a student an academic advantage and in fact provide equitable access to education
- NOT modifications to essential course requirements

Quick Facts About SAS

In 2020/21, Student Accessibility Services supported **461** students. Of these:

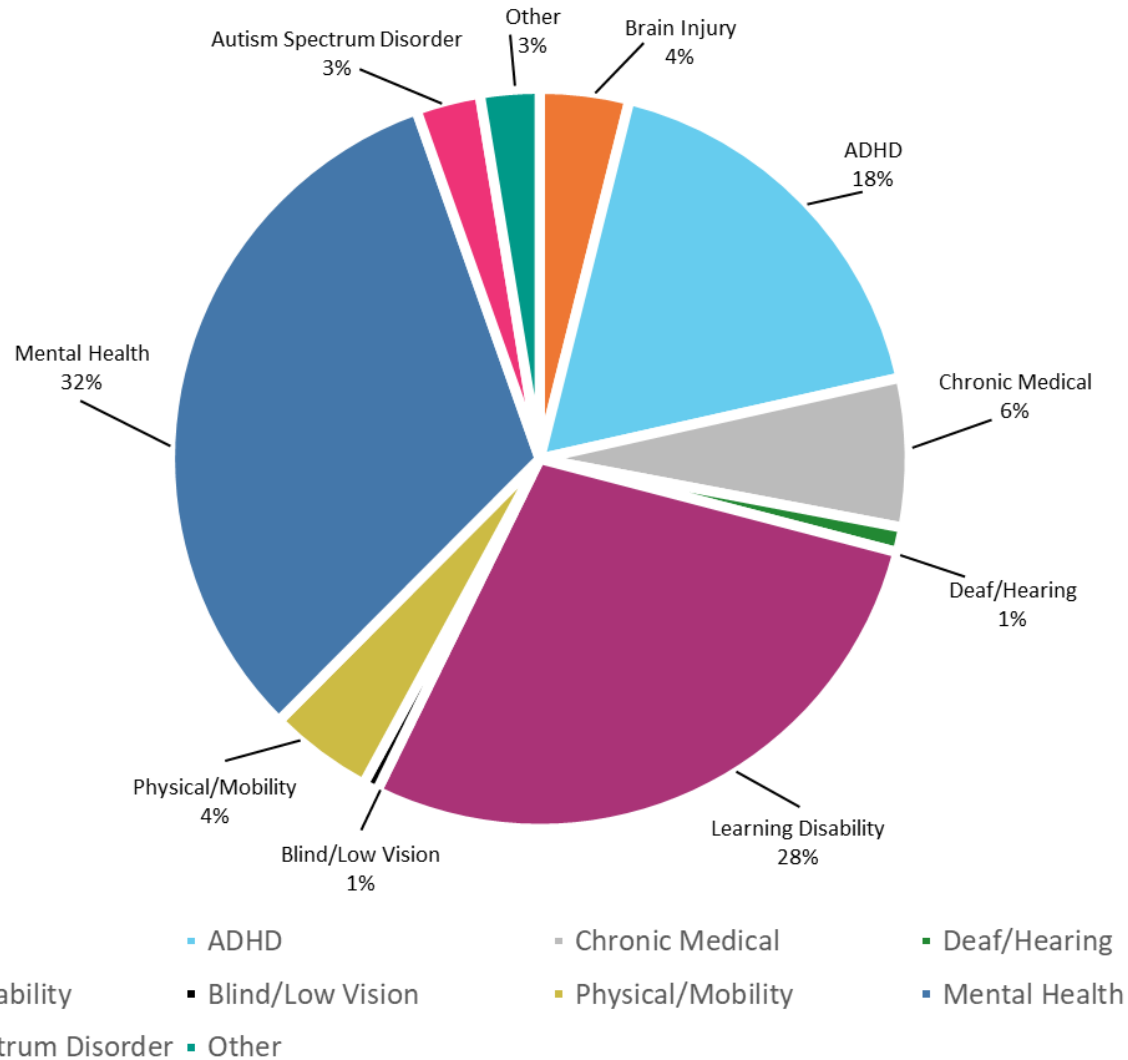
- **440** have permanent disabilities

This represents approximately **10%** of all Nipissing undergraduate students

- **21** needed temporary/interim support
- **243** have multiple disabilities
- **69** were registered in the following programs:
 - BComm –Distance Education
 - BScN Bridging
 - BScN Scholar Practitioner

Quick Facts About our Students

Percentage of students served by primary disability



Getting and Receiving Support

The first step is to submit a [Self-ID Form](#) then meet with an Accessibility Consultant (AC). You will need to:

- ☐ Provide appropriate documentation
- ☐ Work with your AC to create Individualized Academic Plan (IAP)

Based on your IAP, you may need to work with our:

- ☐ Student Accessibility Officers (SAO) to access testing and notetaking accommodations
- ☐ Adaptive Technologist (AT) to access technology specific needs

Throughout your registration you will need to:

- ☐ Submit a [Returning Student Form](#) for **each term** for which you require accommodations (including Spring/Summer)
- ☐ Update Accessibility Consultant on any changes to disability needs
- ☐ Follow up with Accessibility Consultant as required

[For complete SAS Registration details](#) visit our webpage.

Contact Us

Student Accessibility Services is located in the Office of Student Development & Services, Room B210. We are open Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. during the summer).

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