

Resource Guide for Post-Secondary Students with Disabilities

Introduction

Are you finishing high school in the next year or two? Are you thinking of continuing your education at a college or university in Alberta? Have you been out of school for several years but would like to go back and upgrade your education?

If you are a student with a disability and you've answered yes to any of these questions, this handbook is for you!

Last year, the Alberta Committee of Citizens with Disabilities (ACCD) spoke with both potential and continuing post-secondary students with disabilities from across the province. Students just like you! They told us about the questions they had when they began to consider post-secondary training. Maybe you have some of the same questions.

We also visited post-secondary campuses in the province to see what services and programs the disability services offices offered. Overall, we were impressed with the commitment being made to support students with disabilities in Alberta. We hope you are, too!

This booklet answers some of the most frequently asked questions we heard, and it profiles some of our impressions of the institutions we visited. As well, we've included a section on some of the "bigger" questions about going to college or university. Questions like "How is university different from high school? Where am I going to live?" And most importantly, "How can I afford to go to school!?!?" At the end of the handbook, we've listed some web sites and mailing addresses that you might find useful as you prepare to continue your education.

Good luck and good learning!!

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the students with disabilities who provided us with the consumer input we needed to develop this handbook: David Burnette, Amber Healey, Jim Heglund, Ben McConnell, Liam McMullin, Jessica Saunders, Caroline Sladek, and Lois White. Good luck to each of you in your studies!

We are also grateful to the disability services coordinators who spent time meeting with us, answering questions, and giving us tours of their campuses. We were inspired by your dedication to students with disabilities.

Thank you to the Alberta Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Education Fund for their commitment to accessible education and for funding this project.

This document is also available on-line at www.accd.net. If you would like to receive a copy of this document in an alternate format, please contact ACCD at 1-800-387-2514.

Resource Guide for Potential Post-Secondary Students with Disabilities

Table of Contents

Section One: Frequently Asked Questions	4
Section Two: Institution Profiles	7
Alberta College of Art and Design (ACAD).....	9
Athabasca University (AU).....	10
Augustana University College (AUC).....	11
Bow Valley College (BVC)	12
Canadian University College (CAUC).....	15
Concordia University College (CUC)	16
DeVry Institute of Technology (DeVry)	17
Fairview College (Fairview)	18
Grand Prairie Regional College (GPRC)	19
Grant MacEwan College (GMC)	20
Keyano College (Keyano).....	22
The King’s University College (KUC).....	23
Lakeland College (Lakeland).....	24
Lethbridge Community College (LCC)	25
Medicine Hat College (MHC).....	26
Mount Royal College (MRC)	27
Nazarene University College (NUC).....	29
NorQuest College (NorQuest)	30
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)	32
Northern Lakes College (NLC)	34
Olds College (Olds)	36
Portage College (Portage)	38
Red Deer College (RDC)	39
Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT).....	40
Taylor University College (TUC).....	41
University of Alberta (U of A).....	42
University of Calgary (U of C)	44
University of Lethbridge (U of L)	46
Section Three: “Bigger” Questions	48
Section Four: Useful Contacts	51

Section One: Frequently Asked Questions

1. I finish high school this year; when should I apply for college or university?

The sooner, the better! No matter where you plan on going to school, you should apply **at least four months in advance!** By applying early, you can

- Choose course schedules that suit your needs
- Meet with the disability services office
- Make sure the supports you need are in place
- Apply for student loans in plenty of time

2. Is there anything I need to know about applying as a student with a disability?

Not really. Some institutions' application forms have a box to check or a line to complete that identifies your disability. The disability services office will touch base with you about the supports you need.

If the application form does not have a place for self-disclosure, it's up to you to contact the disability services office on your own. (We've included all of the contact information you'll need in the next section.)

3. I finished high school over 15 years ago; can I still go to college or university?

Definitely! But you may have to write some entrance tests to see if you are ready for post-secondary learning. Depending on your results, you may be asked to take part in some upgrading courses before applying for college or university level courses.

4. I never finished high school, but now I think I'd like to. Can I?

Sure! Many colleges offer upgrading programs. These programs focus on helping adult learners finish their high school prerequisites.

5. Who will pay for the supports I need to be a post-secondary student?

For most students, Canada Study Grants and Alberta Human Resources and Employment (AHRE) funding will cover any disability-related supports needed for you to complete your area of study. But . . . that's not necessarily as easy as it sounds. Here's what you'll have to do:

- Gather up any documentation you have about your disability.
- If you have documentation about the supports you had in high school, gather it up, too.
- Bring this information to the disability services office.
- If you have "enough" information, they will put together a service plan (see next question) for you that requests the supports you need. They will also coordinate funding for the supports.

- If you don't have sufficient documentation, you will have to be assessed before the supports you need can be determined. Assessments will be coordinated by the disability services office, but usually take place off campus.
- Once your assessment is complete (a process that can take up to 4 months!!), a service plan can be created.
- Meet with the disability services office again to review your plan and to put your supports in place.

Whew!!!

6. Service plan? What is a service plan?

A service plan, also known as an education plan or an accommodation plan, outlines the supports that you are eligible for. Every student's service plan is different. Here are some of the services covered in a service plan:

- Note Taking
- Alternate Format Texts (Braille, large print, audio)
- Exam Accommodations
- Assistive Technology
- Interpreters
- Captioning Services
- Tutoring

7. I've never been to the campus I want to attend, and my disability makes it difficult for me to get around a new place. Is there anyone who can show me the ropes?

Yes. Most disability services offices have orientations for new students with disabilities. These orientations often include tours of the campus. If you have a mobility impairment, you will likely want to find out the most efficient way of getting from one place to another. And, if you are blind, you will need to become familiar with the route you will be taking. In these situations, disability services staff or volunteers will familiarize you with the campus. Some students in our focus group also asked friends to help them get to know their way around.

All campuses offer more general orientation programs and tours.

8. If I'm having trouble with my course work, where can I get help?

If the difficulty you're having is related to your disability (for example, a learning disability), there's a good chance that tutoring is a part of your service plan. If it isn't, you may have to seek out some tutoring on your own. Some campuses provide tutoring free of charge and others don't. The disability services office will be able to point you in the right direction.

9. Managing my disability takes a lot of time. Is it okay if I don't take a full-time course load?

Yes. As a matter of fact, most disability services offices encourage students to consider part-time course loads. The only drawback to this is if you receive funding to attend school. If you are receiving a student loan you must take a minimum of 3 courses/term. Some scholarships and awards also depend on full-time course loads.

10. Do campuses have student disability organizations I can join?

A few campuses have student-run disability organizations. The best place to find them is through the National Education Association of Disabled Students' web page at www.neads.ca. They have a project called CampusNet that links you to campus-related disability organizations, committees, etc.

11. What if I need an advocate to speak on my behalf?

Disability services offices will advocate for you, but first they will encourage you to be a self-advocate. Every disability service office we spoke to believed in the power of self-advocacy. This means that students need to be "equal partners" in their education and take responsibility for the accommodations they need. By learning these skills in school, you will be able to carry them into the work place and your community.

Section Two: Institution Profiles

In this section, we provide you with some basic information on each of the province's post-secondary institutions. Included in our list are all publicly funded colleges, technical institutes, universities, and accredited private colleges. Many institutions have more than one campus, but our comments are specific to the main campuses.

A few notes on the categories:

- ◆ The institutions are listed in alphabetical order. We use abbreviations for each campus, as shown in the list below.
- ◆ The web sites we've included in the contact information sections link directly to each institution's *disability services information pages*. As you'll see, some of these sites provide quite a bit of detail and others don't. For campuses that did not have a disability services page, the link is to their student services page or their home page.
- ◆ Institution home pages, general information numbers, and mailing addresses are located in section four, *Contact Information*.
- ◆ Safewalk volunteers can escort you to bus stops, vehicles, pick-up points, or even to different areas of the campus. Most safewalk programs only run in the evening. If you're feeling nervous or vulnerable, don't hesitate to give them a call. That's what they're there for!
- ◆ In general, the highlight section focuses on achievements regarding disability services. However, some of the highlights focus on a unique aspect of the campus being discussed.
- ◆ We've included information on policies regarding students with disabilities because we believe policies show an institution's commitment to students with disabilities.
- ◆ We have not provided detailed information on campus accessibility. We found that almost all campuses met the minimal accessibility standards. This does not necessarily mean that all campuses are easy to navigate. A few comments on accessibility are included in the campus map section.
- ◆ Like highlights, tidbits are often, but not always, disability related. These are just things that caught our attention that we thought you might want to know!

Alphabetical Listing

See *Section Four: Useful Contacts* for addresses, phone numbers and e-mails for these institutions.

1. Alberta College of Art and Design (ACAD)
2. Athabasca University (AU)
3. Augustana University College (AUC)
4. Bow Valley College (BVC)
5. Canadian University College (CAUC)

6. Concordia University College (CUC)
7. DeVry Institute of Technology (DeVry)
8. Fairview College (Fairview)
9. Grand Prairie Regional College (GPRC)
10. Grant MacEwan College (GMC)
11. Keyano College (Keyano)
12. The King's University College (KUC)
13. Lakeland College (Lakeland)
14. Lethbridge Community College (LCC)
15. Medicine Hat College (MHC)
16. Mount Royal College (MRC)
17. Nazarene University College (NUC)
18. NorQuest College (NorQuest)
19. Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)
20. Northern Lakes College (NLC)
21. Olds College (Olds)
22. Portage College (Portage)
23. Red Deer College (RDC)
24. Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)
25. Taylor University College (TUC)
26. University of Alberta (U of A)
27. University of Calgary (U of C)
28. University of Lethbridge (U of L)

1. Alberta College of Art and Design

Contact

Paul Roberge, Counsellor
Student Services
Room 305

Tel: (403) 284-7666
TTY: (403) 284-7643
E-mail: paul.roberge@acad.ca

Web site: http://www.acad.ab.ca/admiss_student/student_services/disabilities.cfm

Safewalk: 284-7672 or 680-1451 (Commissionaire)

Highlight

For students with disabilities who have an interest in art or design, ACAD boasts a growing reputation and international acclaim. When we toured the facility, we were impressed with the range and variety of art being created by the students. Currently, only a handful of students with disabilities attend the college, but the Student Services office is keen to address student needs on an individual basis.

The Marion Nicoll Gallery, which is on-site at ACAD, is operated by the Students' Association and has regular exhibitions of ACAD student work. This means you'll have the opportunity to exhibit your work—even as a student!

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

ACAD is currently in the process of creating an Academic Accommodations policy. The document itself has been written, but is pending formal approval.

Campus Map

The ACAD campus map is available on the web at www.acad.ab.ca/admiss_student/fac_res/campus_map.cfm
From this page there is also a link to a wheelchair accessible map.

Other Tidbits

- ◆ The tool bank provides students with hand tools for studio use on a library-loan basis.
- ◆ The wood shop provides students with access to power equipment under the supervision of the wood shop technician.
- ◆ The Illingworth Kerr Gallery highlights the work of Canadian and international artists.

2. Athabasca University

Contact

Going to be hiring in September, Coordinator
Access for Students with Disabilities

Current Contact:

Lorraine Zubke, Administration Assistant

Tel: (780) 497-3424, 1-800-788-9041, Ext. 3424

TTY: n/a

E-mail: asd@athabascau.ca

Web site: www.athabascau.ca/html/services/advise/disab.htm

Highlight

What makes AU unique is that it is a virtual campus! You don't actually attend regular classes in your community. Instead, you work from your own home to complete courses. Course materials are provided, as is a tutor whom you can call or e-mail with questions or concerns. You even get to work according to your own schedule, although some guidelines exist to ensure your work is completed in a reasonable amount of time. Students require access to a computer and the internet because the courses are delivered through the internet.

For some students with disabilities, the benefits of this type of learning are clear. The flexibility creates options for working when you're feeling your best! If you think this is the type of learning scenario you want to be a part of, you can take a self-assessment called "Am I Ready for Athabasca University?" The self-assessment is available on-line from the contact web site noted above, by clicking on services for students, then Online Resources...Am I Ready for AU?

Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

AU adopted the *Policy for Students with Disabilities* in 1989. It was most recently updated in 2000. The policy is accessible on-line at

www.athabascau.ca/policy/studentervices/policyforstudentswithdisabilities.htm

Campus Map

Because of the distant learning nature of AU programs, maps aren't really necessary. The Learning Centre is accessible and is located at 10030-107 Street in Edmonton.

Other Tidbits

- ◆ AU offers the Emil C. Fredericks Award for students with disabilities. This award grants up to a maximum of \$1500/year. Application forms are sent to all enrolled students, and it is also accessible online:
<http://www.athabascau.ca/html/depts/registry/forms/pdf/Accessfund.doc>

- ◆ Because AU students, for the most part, work out of their homes, supportive technology is sometimes installed on home computers. Otherwise, students are assisted in accessing supportive technology in their communities.

3. Augustana University College

Contact

Marc Chytracek, Dean
Student Services
Room F217, Faith and Life Centre
Tel: (780) 679-1181
TTY: n/a
E-mail: chytm@augustana.ca

Web site: www.augustana.ca

Safewalk: n/a

Highlight

AUC offers several opportunities for studying abroad. For example, they are working in partnership with Canada World Youth, sponsoring a student exchange between students from Alberta with students from Mexico. In this program, students focus on issues of rural development in each country. As well, opportunities exist for summer language programs in Germany and periodical art tours in Europe.

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

AUC does not have a campus policy regarding students with disabilities but will deal with an student concerns on an individual basis.

Campus Map

Web tours of the AUC campus are on-line at www.augustana.ab.ca/aboutauc/webtour/
Accessibility features are not on the maps.

Other Tidbits

- ◆ AUC was the first private college in Alberta to receive degree-granting authority.
- ◆ AUC was founded in 1910 by the Alberta Norwegian Lutheran College Association. It now serves as a university of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

4. Bow Valley College

Contact

Denise Theunissen
Learning Specialist for Learners with
Learning Difficulties and Disabilities
Learning Resource Services
LRS, 4th floor, Bow Valley College

Liz O'Shea
Counsellor for Learners
with Disabilities
Counselling Department
2nd floor, Bow Valley College

Tel: (403) 410-1645
TTY: n/a
e-mail: dtheunissen@bowvalleycollege.ca

Tel: (403) 410-1692
TTY: n/a
e-mail: loshea@bowvalleycollege.ca

Web site: www.bowvalleycollege.ca/campus_services/for_students.htm

Safewalk: n/a

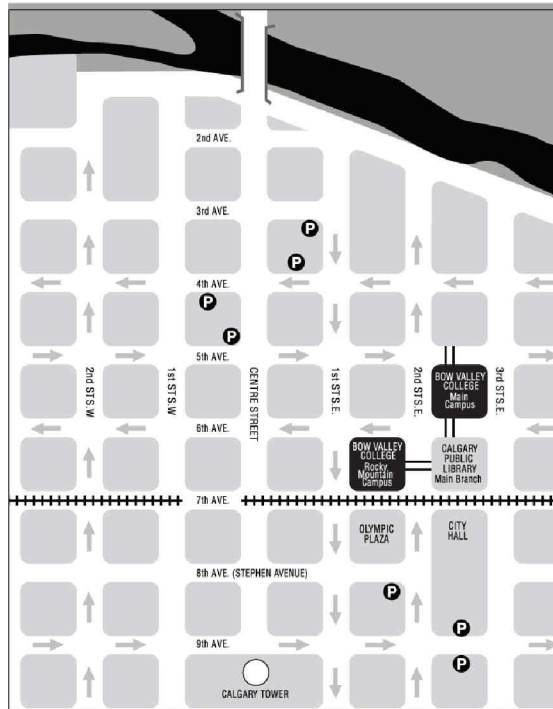
Highlight

Bow Valley College has excellent learner support provided through the Learning Resource Services (LRS) and the counselling department. Request for funding and counselling for learners with disabilities is provided through the Counselling department. In the LRS, all learners can access assistance with resources, computers, study skills and a variety of learning tools. The disability services in the LRS may include: student initial assessments for learning difficulties, technology access, orientations, program planning, testing facilities and assistance with request for funding for disability related resources. The goal of the services in the LRS and the counselling department is to help all learners succeed

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

BVC adopted an *Academic Accommodation Policy for Learners with Disabilities*. The policy is in the college calendar and in a brochure available from the disability services office. It will be on the Bow Valley College website later this year.

Campus Map



Other Tidbits

- ◆ Bow Valley College's main campus is in Calgary, but there are campuses or learning centres scattered across thirteen communities in southern Alberta! This makes it easier for learners living in smaller centres to improve their education.

- ◆ Bow Valley College offers a wide range of support to learners with diverse needs and the following disabilities:
 - Sensory (vision or hearing impairment, blind or deaf)
 - Physical
 - Learning
 - Speech and language
 - Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
 - Neurological
 - Chronic health/pain
 - Mental health
 - Short term disability

Bow Valley College recognizes that each learner is unique and that each disability requires a fair evaluation that leads to appropriate strategies and accommodations.

- ◆ Health services are available to learners from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday at the main campus.

- ◆ The Assistive Technology Lab in the LRS allows learners with learning difficulties and disabilities to access various types of adaptive software and technology. As one Bow Valley College learner describes: “Zoom Text and WYNN hasn’t taken me long to learn and has helped me to improve my written English. Because the programs can read back to me I know if I have spelled something wrong and can go back to correct it. The CCTV is very important to me for proofreading and revising my documents and I am comfortable using the programs independently.”

5. Canadian University College

Contact

Wanda Johnson, Director
Counselling and Career Development

Tel: (403) 782-3381 Ext. 4149

TTY: n/a

E-mail: wjohnson@cauc.ca

Web site: www.cauc.ca

Safewalk: 782-3381 Ext. 4130 (Campus Security)

Highlight

CAUC was founded and is sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. The web site will connect you with the vision and mission statement, information on admission, finances, student life, course descriptions and the student handbook.

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

CAUC does not have a campus policy regarding students with disabilities.

Campus Map

CAUC has a campus map that indicates accessibility information.

Other Tidbits

- ◆ CAUC traces its roots back to 1907 when the first Alberta Seventh-day Adventist secondary school was established at Leduc. In 1909, the present location near Lacombe was chosen.

6. Concordia University College

Contact

Valerie Lenz, Coordinator
Student Events and Services
Rm: G212

Wayne Stuhlmiller
Dean of Student Affairs

Tel: (780) 479-9242
TTY: n/a
E-mail: vlenz@concordia.ab.ca

Tel: (780) 479-9243
TTY: n/a
E-mail: wayne.stuhlmiller@concordia.ab.ca

Web site: <http://www.concordia.ab.ca/resources/students.php>

Safewalk: 915-5460 (Campus Security)

Highlight

CUC is a Christian campus with a strong focus on music. John Hooper, the director of choral music at Concordia, and producer Mike Ouellette have had their three part series "The Art and Work of Choir" nominated for an Alberta Motion Picture Industry Association award. The series is shown on Access TV and is used as part of the choral methods course at Concordia and at the University of Calgary. The series has been nominated for the Best Educational category. If you are interested in a Christian-based post-secondary experience and you have a musical bent, this may be the place for you!

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

CUC has a policy regarding students with disabilities. It is available from Student Services, Office G212.

Campus Map

There are a series of maps of the campus, and they do include information on accessible entrances, washrooms, and elevators. Copies of the maps are available from Student Services, Office G212. There are several key areas that are not accessible at this time, including the auditorium, the chapel, and the men's residence.

Other Tidbits

◆ Entrance Bursaries

The Patricia Eidem Bursary for the Hearing Impaired

An annual \$1,000 award to a student with a hearing disability intending to enter the teaching profession. The recipient must present a minimum GPA of 2.7, register in a minimum of 9 credits each semester in the Bachelor of Education (After Degree) program or a Bachelor of Arts degree program with a declared minor in Education, and demonstrate financial need. Preference will be given to students enrolled in the Bachelor of Education (After Degree) program.

- ◆ Alternate format for print materials and interpreting services are not available at this time. However, carbonized paper and assistance with arranging note takers are available.
- ◆ A technology room for students with disabilities is located in the library. Arrangements to use it are made through Student Services, Office G212.
- ◆ Concordia University is in the process of adding FM Assistive hearing systems, and increasing support to students with disabilities including the wheelchair lift to upper Guild, the upgrading of the Adaptive Technology room in the Library, the access ramp into the Robert Tegler Student Centre and a \$10,000 bursary endowment.

7. DeVry Institute of Technology

Contact

Carrie MacKay
Director of New Student Enrolment Support

Tel: 1-800-363-5558 Ext. 3180

TTY: n/a

E-mail: cmackay@mail.cal.devry.ca

Web site: www.cal.devry.ca/student/student_resource.html

Safewalk: Available through the Information Desk inside the main entrance.

Highlight

We've noticed that many students with disabilities are interested in technology-based careers. If this is your situation, DeVry may be the place for you. DeVry prides itself on providing innovative, high-quality, technology-based programs. The curriculum supports a wide-range of technological fields such as electronics engineering, business operations, computer information systems, and computer engineering.

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

Currently, DeVry does not have a policy regarding students with disabilities, but supports are provided for students on an individual basis.

Campus Map

There is a campus map in the student handbook that all students receive upon registering. The main entrance and all washrooms on the first floor have automated doors.

Other Tidbits

- ◆ The campus Student Resource Centre (SRC) offers tutorials and other services for students with and without disabilities who may need some extra assistance. Tutorials are offered by faculty on a drop-in basis, so students are able to access help as soon as it is needed. Who better to help you out than an instructor!
- ◆ DeVry received Canadian accreditation in 2001.

8. Fairview College

Contact

Counsellor
Learner Services

Tel: (780) 835-6656

TTY: n/a

E-mail: registrar@fairviewcollege.com

Web site: www.fairviewcollege.com/stu_serv/

Safewalk: 835-1165 (Campus Security)

Highlight

Along with programs in Agriculture, Business, and Trades, Fairview College offers a Transitional Vocational Program for adults with developmental disabilities. This program focuses on employment training, independent living skills, and work placement. People who offer and take the course believe it is so successful because it is offered in a small, friendly community. This makes it easier for students to get to know one another and other community members. The program also provides follow-up for students who graduate from the program. If you or someone you know with a developmental disability is interested in this program, contact Kris Hvamb at (780) 835-6679.

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

Fairview College and The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) have agreed to enter into a partnership to increase the number and diversity of programs offered to post-secondary students in northwest Alberta. Under the agreement, NAIT assumes responsibility for the administration of Fairview College, effective July 1, 2004.

Campus Map

Fairview College does have a campus map, but it does not include accessibility information. It is available at the front information desk.

Other Tidbits

- ◆ Fairview is a small, friendly college where students can quickly become a part of the community if they so wish.
- ◆ Fairview stimulates interest in science and technology by hosting, judging, and organizing high school science fairs in the Peace Region.

9. Grande Prairie Regional College

Contact

Rosemary Kay
Academic Advisor & Students' Resource Coordinator
H114

Tel: (780) 539-2062
TTY: n/a
E-mail: rkay@gprc.ab.ca

Web site: <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/current/studentservices.html>

Safewalk: 539-2700

Highlight

If you're thinking of moving to Grande Prairie to attend college, the residence has accessible ground floor suites that are only a hop, skip, and a jump from the main academic buildings. Most campuses the size of GPRC does not provide on-site housing, but because GPRC serves students from many rural and northwest centres in Alberta, they do.

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

In December 2000, GPRC adopted a *Policy on Students with Disabilities*. The policy was re-enforced in Feb 2004, and can be accessed on-line at www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies.html. Also, they have recently posted a Disability Services Handbook for 2004/05 and it can be accessed online (in PDF format) by using this link: <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/current/studentservices.html#disability>. The handbook lists many resources and is a valuable tool.

Campus Map

Currently, GPRC does not have a campus map that indicates disability-related information, such as accessible entrances or washrooms. However, the parking services office does have a pamphlet that indicates the location of parking stalls for students with disabilities. As well, a map of the campus is available on line at www.gprc.ab.ca/about/maps. Elevator locations can be accessed on the interactive maps by using the Options field.

Other Tidbits

- ◆ Three GPRC students with disabilities and one staff member participated in the 2003 ACCD Instruct the Instructor project, which involved the creation of training modules for faculty about students with disabilities.

- ◆ The Students' Resource Coordinator has developed a page of disability-related internet links that is included in the college web page at www.gprc.ab.ca/alumni/caer/specialized.html

10. Grant MacEwan College

Contact

Abigail Parrish-Craig, Counsellor
Services to Students with Disabilities
7-112A

Tel: (780) 497-5811
e-mail: ParrishCraigA@MacEwan.ca

Coreen Laing, Counsellor
Services to Students with Disabilities,
South Campus

Tel: (780) 423-6264
e-mail: LaingC@MacEwan.ca

Eunice Litwinow
Learning Disabilities Specialist
7-112A

Tel: (780) 497-5815
e-mail: LitwinowE@MacEwan.ca

Jody Morrison
Deaf Services Coordinator
7-112A

Tel: (780) 497-5822
TTY: (780) 497-5225
e-mail: MorrisonJo@MacEwan.ca

Web site: <http://www.macewan.ca/web/services/disabilities/home/index.cfm?>

Safewalk: 497-5474

Highlight

We were impressed with the series of three handbooks produced by the Services to Students with Disabilities (SSD) office. One handbook targets the general student with disabilities population, another is for deaf and hard-of-hearing students, and the remaining one is for prospective students with disabilities. These handbooks provide all kinds of useful information that will make your transition into post-secondary training at Grant MacEwan a smooth one.

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

The College has a policy regarding students with disabilities and its commitment to providing reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. The policy is included in the Handbooks for Students with Disabilities. Both the policy and the Handbook can be downloaded from the following link:
<http://www.macewan.ca/web/services/disabilities/links/Index.cfm?MenuOption=3&Line=13>

Campus Map

A campus map is available at the SSD office. Persons with disabled parking permits can park free at meters for two hours.

Other Tidbits

- ◆ There is a College Policy that requires that course outlines include a statement recommending that those students who will require accommodations due to a disability identify themselves to the SSD office.
- ◆ A newsletter for students with disabilities includes reminders about deadlines, conference information, links to education and funding resources, orientation sessions, etc.
- ◆ Assistive Computer Technology Services at the college provide assessment, training, and technical support for students with disabilities who use assistive technology.

11. Keyano College

Contact

Norma Macdonald
Special Needs Counsellor

Candice Crossley
Special Needs Coordinator

Tel: (780)-791-4806 or
1 800 251 1408 ext. 4806

Tel: (780)-791-8934 or
1 800 251 1408 ext. 8934

TTY: n/a

TTY: n/a

E-mail: norma.macdonald@keyano.ca

E-mail: candice.crossley@keyano.ca

Web site:

http://www.keyano.ca/prospective_students/special_needs/htdocs/resources.htm

Safewalk: 791-4975 (Campus Security)

Highlight

In the near future, Keyano will be home to a brand new technology centre. The \$9.7 million expansion will provide staff and students with “smart” classrooms, labs, student space and offices. Consultation meetings regarding the new space have included student input. If you are interested in technology fields, the state of the art equipment and ties with local industry offered at Keyano may be a tempting combination.

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

Keyano has a campus policy regarding students with disabilities. It is available on-line at the disability services web site noted above.

Campus Map

Keyano has a variety of campuses and learning centres throughout northern Alberta. Maps of these campuses are not available on-line, and accessibility information is not included on the maps.

Other Tidbits

- ◆ YMCA operated daycare situated near student housing.
- ◆ Residence and tuition fees are among the lowest in the province.

12. The King's University College

Contact

Wally Rude
Dean of Students

Tel: (780) 465-3500 ext 8037

TTY: n/a

E-mail: wally.rude@kingsu.ca

Lisa Teigen
Student Life Assistant

Tel: (780) 465-3500 ext 8009

TTY: n/a

E-mail: lisa.teigen@kingsu.ca

Web site: www.kingsu.ab.ca/staff/studlife.shtm

Safewalk: n/a

Highlight

KUC, along with a few other institutions in the province, provides a Christian-based post-secondary education. KUC's web page describes its educational philosophy as "rooted in the historic Christian faith and its teaching and research are influenced by a Christian world view." If you are considering a post-secondary education from a Christian perspective, this is one option for you.

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

Currently, KUC does not have a policy regarding services for students with disabilities, but they are in the process of creating one.

Campus Map

There is a campus map. It indicates the location of elevators, but not accessible entrances or accessible washrooms. The main door is a sliding door; the washrooms at the front entrance are accessible. The maps are in the daytimers that you'll receive when you register.

Other Tidbits

- ◆ KUC has a handbook for students with disabilities. This handbook outlines services and provides useful information that will help you make the transition to post-secondary learning. If you would like to receive this handbook you must contact Lisa Teigen.
- ◆ KUC offers a new international program that invites students to learn about East Africa by going to a small research centre near Nairobi. Here they will observe the work of Christian community development partners.

13. Lakeland College

Contact

Len Wilhelm, Counsellor
Counselling Services
Room AH116

Tel: 1-800-661-6490 Ext. 781 or (780) 853-8781

TTY: n/a

E-mail: leonard.wilhelm@lakelandcollege.ca

Web site: <http://www.lakelandcollege.ca/admissions/success-services.aspx>

Safewalk: Contact campus security

Highlight

Lakeland offers a one-year Transitional Vocational program to adults with mild developmental disabilities. Students learn independent living and social skills, and gain valuable work experience. Angela Wilm, an instructor in the program, explains, "The whole idea of our program is to help people start the transition into living independently." Courses include interpersonal communication, basic computers, math, consumer education, and skills for wellness. If you or someone you know is interested in this program, contact Angela Wilm at 1-800-661-6490 Ext. 532.

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

Lakeland has a policy regarding students with disabilities. It is posted on their website at: <http://www.lakelandcollege.ca/admissions/success-services.aspx>

Campus Map

A campus map is not currently available, but one is being developed that will include accessibility information. Most buildings are accessible. In you want to receive a map, feel free to contact Len Wilhelm.

Other Tidbits

- ◆ Sixty paid tutors are available on campus! They provide tutoring at no charge to any student seeking assistance.
- ◆ Trained lab monitors are available to assist students if they have problems in the computer labs.

14. Lethbridge Community College

Contact

Julie Deimert, Coordinator
Counsellor, Counselling Services
CE 1329

Tel: (403) 329-7268 or 1 800 572-0102, ext. 7268

TTY: n/a

E-mail: julie.deimert@lethbridgecollege.ab.ca

Web site:

<http://www.lethbridgecollege.ab.ca/departments/student/counselling/disability.shtml>

Safewalk: 317-3517

Highlight

Julie Deimert has developed a faculty information paper that answers questions that instructors may have regarding accommodating students with special needs. Many of the instructors we spoke to at various campuses felt that information regarding their roles in supporting students with disabilities was needed. This paper supplies that information by answering questions such as “Who is eligible for accommodations? Is this fair to other students? What do I need to know?”

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

LCC has developed a policy regarding students with disabilities. It can be found on the website posted above.

Campus Map

A campus map is available from the Information/Security desk, but it does not indicate accessibility features. Plans are being made to put the map on the web site.

Other Tidbits

- ◆ LCC has a brochure that outlines the services for students with disabilities, provided by the Learning Centre.
- ◆ In 2000, 98% of LCC graduates entering the labour market found employment within six months of graduation.

15. Medicine Hat College

Contact

Tera Watkins
Disability Services Coordinator

Tel: (403) 529-3819

TTY: n/a

E-mail: twatkins@acd.mhc.ab.ca

Web site: <http://www.mhc.ab.ca/services/disabilities/>

Safewalk: 952-0489

Highlight

Medicine Hat College is committed to the continuous improvement of services for students with disabilities. In this light, we have created a new Disability Services Handbook for 2003/04, and are pleased with the formation of a new student group (S.W.A.A.D. – Students with Abilities and Disabilities) on campus.

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

Policies regarding the provision of services to students with disabilities will be found on our website soon and in the Disabilities Services Handbook. The handbook can be downloaded at: <http://www.mhc.ab.ca/services/disabilities/handbook.htm>

Campus Map

MHC does have a campus map, but it does not include accessibility information. You can get a copy of the map at the academic advising office on campus.

Other Tidbits

- ◆ MHC is proud to have built a new three storey building and is finalizing its new entranceway. As a result, all Student Services offices will now be located in the old library building, in essence providing “one-stop shopping” for students.

16. Mount Royal College

Contact

Shan Robertson
Disabilities Consultant
Disabilities Services
Y201

Bonnie Blankert, Consultant
Disabilities Consultant
Disabilities Services
Y201

Tel: (403) 440-6491
TTY: n/a
E-mail: srobertson@mtroyal.ca

Tel: (403) 440-5959
TTY: n/a
E-mail: bblankert@mtroyal.ca

Web site: <http://www.mtroyal.ca/disabilities/studentdisabilities.shtml>

Safewalk: (403) 440-6897

Highlight

When we met with disability services coordinators, they often felt discouraged about the lack of technical support for assistive technology and software being provided for students with disabilities. In many cases, software programs and innovative equipment were available to students, but no one was around to provide on-going assistance to new users. Not so at Mount Royal College!

The Learning Skills Centre is excited about the services provided to students with disabilities through the START program. In this program, students from computing programs instruct and tutor students with disabilities in using the technological supports available to them. The tutors are chosen carefully, and have an excellent combination of interpersonal skills and technological know-how. These tutors are available Monday through Friday in a lab dedicated to supported technologies.

Mount Royal College also offers group and individual sessions in study skills (e.g. textbook reading, time management, essay writing, etc). Contact the Learning Skills Centre at (403) 440-6452 to book an appointment with a Learning Consultant

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

MRC does have a disability policy. It is currently being updated. The existing policy is available from Disability Services.

Campus Map

A campus map that indicates disability parking, elevators, accessible washrooms, and wheelchair accessible entrances is available from the disability services office. A large print version of the map is located at each main entrance. A variety of campus maps are available online at <http://www.mtroyal.ca/maps/> which provide limited accessibility information. There is only one elevator on campus.

Other Tidbits

- ◆ Mount Royal College also offers group and individual sessions in study skills (e.g. textbook reading, time management, essay writing, etc). Contact the Learning Skills Centre at (403) 440-6452 to book an appointment with a Learning Consultant
- ◆ Free peer tutoring (up to 2 hours per week) may be available. Contact the Tutor Coordinator in the Learning Skills Centre (403) 440-6452

17. Nazarene University College

Contact

Kim Follis
Enrolment

Tel: (403) 571-2550 Ext.2927

TTY: n/a

E-mail: kim.follis@nuc.edu

Web site: www.nuc.edu

Safewalk: 735-6995 or 240-5503

Highlight

NUC is a degree granting, Christian liberal arts university college. The mission of NUC is to “deliver quality education that prepares men and women for lives of leadership and service.” NUC promotes its small classroom sizes, well-trained professors, and strong sense of community, stating these traits make NUC “a great place to get an education.”

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

Currently, NUC does not have a policy regarding students with disabilities.

Campus Map

NUC is a small campus and there is no map available. Classrooms are on four floors, however they are all accessible. Washrooms are also accessible.

Other Tidbits

- ◆ The college is very close to Calgary Transit bus stops and the C-Train.
- ◆ Nazarene University College will be expanding in the near future with a brand new campus! The plan is to be in their new home by Fall 2008.

18. NorQuest College

Contact

Suzanne Panteluk, Coordinator
Students with Physical Disabilities
5th Floor, Learner Centre

Tel: (780) 427-5467
TTY: (780) 427-4977
Fax: (780) 415-8882
E-mail: suzanne.panteluk@norquest.ca

Janice Mills, Coordinator
Students with Learning Disabilities
5th Floor, Learner Centre

Tel: (780) 427-5467
TTY: (780) 427-4977
Fax: (780) 415-8882
E-mail: janice.mills@norquest.ca

Web site: <http://www.norquest.ca/resources/lss.htm>

Safewalk: 425-5946 (Campus Security)

Highlight

In May 2001, Edmonton Mayor Bill Smith paid tribute to the NorQuest College Learner Centre for its accessible architecture. The Learner Centre was selected for its design, which demonstrates creative sensitivity to making architecture accessible for persons with disabilities. Just a few of the many accessibility features include:

- ◆ Hydraulic-assist doors
- ◆ High-contrast color scheme
- ◆ Wide doors and hallways
- ◆ Increased number of accessible washrooms
- ◆ Braille labelling throughout the building
- ◆ TTY pay phone in hallway

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

NorQuest has an admissions policy for students with disabilities. You can check out the policy in the college calendar.

Campus Map

CNIB has created a tactile map of the campus that is in the lobby. Large print maps are also available from the Learner Centre.

Other Tidbits

- ◆ Many NorQuest College programs focus on adults upgrading their education. This means that students at the campus are often adult learners who want to finish their high school courses.

- ◆ NorQuest has six full-time interpreters available during the day as well as interpreters available for evening courses as needed. The Learner Centre also has four academic strategists for English and one for Math. There are seven counsellors and two nurses available to students with disabilities.

19. Northern Alberta Institute of Technology

Contact

Services to Students with Disabilities
Room 0117, South Lobby, Main Campus

Tel: (780) 471-8874
TTY: (780) 474-5883
E-mail: careers@nait.ab.ca

Web site: www.nait.ab.ca/counselling/handbook/main.htm

Safewalk: 471-7477

Highlight

Recent NAIT expansion makes this institution another hot spot for students with an interest in technology. The HP Centre for Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Centre includes 20 classrooms and 56 labs. It houses full-time and part-time computer programs that were previously offered at the downtown and Westwood campuses. This brand new facility is located on the northeast corner of 106 Street and Princess Elizabeth Avenue in Edmonton and is connected to the Main Campus by a pedway.

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

The Handbook for Students with Disabilities outlines operational guidelines and procedures concerning students with disabilities. This handbook can be obtained from the Services to Students with Disabilities office or accessed on-line by going to the link above.

Campus Map

Campus maps are available on-line, in our Full Time Programs Calendar or NAIT Viewbook. To view the on-line version, simply go to the NAIT home page at www.nait.ab.ca and click on the campus map link.

Other Tidbits

- ◆ NAIT assists students with disabilities in arranging on-site visits (if needed) to assess needs and suitability to the program.
- ◆ It is recommended that students contact the Services to Students with Disabilities office 6 months prior to starting a program. This will insure that proper services are in place at the start of the program.

20. Northern Lakes College

Contact

Neil Forsyth
Learning Consultant

Tel: 780-751-3209

TTY: n/a

E-mail: neil.forsyth@yourfuture.ab.ca

Web site: www.northerlakescollege.ca

Highlight

Again we were impressed with an institution's commitment to serving small, sometimes isolated, communities. NLC has facilities in 26 communities throughout north central Alberta! This means that students with disabilities are given the wonderful opportunity to continue their educations without leaving the community supports they've developed.

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

A new policy will be available by September 2003 at
www.northernlakescollege.ca/student/student_students_disabilities.cfm

Campus Map

A campus map is available on our website at
www.northernlakescollege.ca/locations/locations_map.cfm

Other Tidbits

- ◆ Most campuses are wheelchair accessible. Adaptive technology resources for visual and hearing impaired students can be made as required. Northern Lakes College also has Speech Assisted Reading and Writing (SARAW) services available.
- ◆ NLC has day care facilities at the Slave Lake Campus and counsellors can assist with potential day care resources in other communities. More information is available on our website at
www.northernlakescollege.ca/locations/locations_daycare.cfm
- ◆ Northern Lakes College is expanding its career and helping profession certificate programs as well as pre-apprenticeship trades preparation. It also offers first year and some second year University Transfer Programs at some locations. See website for current calendar offerings
www.northernlakescollege.ca/programs/program_list.cfm

- ◆ Class sizes are small (almost never more than 12 students!), which means you have more individual time with your instructor.

21. Olds College

Contact

Annette King, Coordinator
Services for Students with Disabilities
DMP Building, Room 151

Tel: (403) 556-4733 or 1-800-661-6537

TTY: (403) 507-7921

E-mail: aking@oldscollege.ab.ca

Web site: www.oldscollege.ab.ca/students/HealthCounselling.asp#SpecialNeeds

Safewalk: 8224 on any campus phone

Highlight

Olds College provides programs for students with varying disabilities. The Transitional Vocational program is for students with developmental disabilities who can attain a one year certificate through classroom and work experiences. This integrated program allows students to access and receive course credits from other college programs during the eleven month program. This year Olds College was able to accommodate a hard of hearing student using real-time captioning via wireless remote broadcast. The uniqueness of this system allows the captioner to remain in their own location while the student attended their classes on campus. Being a rural institution, this technology has greatly enhanced services to students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Olds College also might be of particular interest to students who learn better in a hands-on environment. We were impressed by the range and uniqueness of the programs at the college. Some of the courses include mechanics, horticultural and land science, and various equine programs. From its beginnings in 1913, the college has emphasized hands-on training and continues to do so today.

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

The Olds College Board of Governors approved the *Disabilities Policy* in 2001. It is available from the disability services office. We also have a specific policy for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Campus Map

There is a campus map in the college calendar. However, the map does not indicate accessible washrooms, entrances, elevators, etc. We found out that *all* student parking lots have marked, accessible parking spaces and all buildings have at least one wheelchair accessible washroom (men's and women's).

Other Tidbits

- ◆ Olds College is the largest agricultural college in Alberta and graduates approximately 25 percent of English-speaking agricultural diploma recipients in Canada.
- ◆ Olds College has a growing international reputation, and there is the opportunity to do some training in other countries!

22. Portage College

Contact

Lise Warawa, Supervisor
Admissions

Pam Zacharias, Coordinator
Learning Assistance Centre

Tel: (780) 623-5575

Tel: (780) 623-5564

TTY: n/a

TTY: n/a

E-mail: lise.warawa@portagecollege.ca

E-mail: pamela.zacharias@portagecollege.ca

Web site: www.portagecollege.ca

Safewalk: n/a

Highlight

Portage College has thirteen satellite campuses and learning centres in smaller communities throughout the northern and central parts of the province. These centres provide many students with the opportunity to improve their education without leaving their hometowns. This is great for students with disabilities who do not want to leave the personal supports they've developed in their communities.

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

Portage College's *Students with Disabilities* policy was adopted in 2000.

Campus Map

Currently, Portage College does not have a campus map. However, when we visited the main campus in Lac La Biche we found it very accessible. There is designated parking near an accessible front entrance; accessible washrooms are marked; and the campus has three elevators.

Other Tidbits

- ◆ At Portage College, the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC) helps students with learning barriers and physical disabilities. Whether you need support for vision, hearing and mobility impairments or if you have problems with study skills, memory, attention, and communication, the LAC is there for you.
- ◆ Portage College has a strong aboriginal focus. There is a Native Awareness Committee that works in conjunction with the Student Association.

23. Red Deer College

Contact

Laurel Mutch, Coordinator
Disability Services
Room 1402, Main Floor

Tel: (403) 342- 3165
TTY: n/a
E-mail: laurel.mutch@rdc.ab.ca

Not known yet, Counsellor
Learning Disability Services
Room 1402, Main Floor

Tel: (403) 342-3280
TTY: n/a
E-mail:

Web site: http://www.rdc.ab.ca/counsel_learn/?disability_services.html

Safewalk: (403) 343-1877

Highlight

When we visited RDC, we learned about the close ties the disability services office has with instructors and program heads, especially in the Rehabilitation Services program. This program is for students who are learning to be caregivers. One student, who has a disability, worked together with the disability office and conducted an accessibility assessment of the campus as a project for one of her classes. Other opportunities for this type of hands-on learning are supported by the disability services office.

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

RDC has recently updated their Services for Students with Disabilities Policy and is working hard to create more adaptive technology training opportunities available.

Campus Map

Campus maps are available from the disability services office. All washrooms, doorways, and elevators on campus are accessible. The online map and virtual tour are found online at: <http://www.rdc.ab.ca/about/tour/>

Other Tidbits

- ◆ RDC has a new library that recently opened. The Library Information Common has the capacity to house over 250 computers!
- ◆ The disability services office provides phone call follow-up to all students who identify themselves in the application process as having a disability.
- ◆ Red Deer College offers 6 accessible residences (2 bedrooms in each unit). These are attached to the campus and make living and going to school at Red Deer College convenient.

24. Southern Alberta Institute of Technology

Contact

Disability Support Services for Students

Tel: (403) 284-8125

TTY: (403) 284-7044

E-mail: lois.hayward@sait.ca

Web site: www.sait.ab.ca/academicsupport/cals/services/serve4.htm

Safewalk: 284-7233

Highlight

In February 2002, Judy Murphy was awarded the 2002 Nicholls Award. The Nicholls Award was initiated in 2000 by the SAIT Alumni Association to recognize and thank visionary leaders who have had a significant, long-term impact on the direction and growth of SAIT.

Judy believes students with disabilities need to play a role in determining the services they need. This consumer-driven philosophy has influenced change in attitudes and systems at SAIT, ensuring that educational opportunities are available for everyone.

Judy's leadership and initiative has resulted in SAIT being a more accessible campus for students with disabilities. She has also increased awareness regarding disability issues for the entire SAIT community.

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

The *Policy Guidelines and Procedures for Disabled Students* at SAIT was approved by the Board of Governors in 1992 and revised in 1994. The policy is not accessible on-line but is available from the disability services office.

Campus Map

Currently, SAIT does not have a campus map that indicates disability-related information, such as accessible entrances, washrooms, and elevators. Yet a campus map can be found online at: <http://www.sait.ab.ca/corporategeneral/map.htm>

Other Tidbits

- ◆ SAIT has a particularly strong set of services for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. They have five full-time interpreters on staff and one full-time captioner.
- ◆ SAIT served more than 67,000 learners in its 1999-2000 academic year! To accommodate further growth, they are investing in new buildings and restorations, renovations, and electronic infrastructure.

25. Taylor University College and Seminary

Contact

Jennell Bertsch
Interim Director of Student Development

Tel: (780) 431-5230

TTY: n/a

E-mail: jennell.bertsch@taylor-edu.ca

Webpage: www.taylor-edu.ca

Safewalk: n/a

Highlight

Taylor University College is another post-secondary institution in the province that focuses on a Christian education. This campus has designed programs of study founded on “a commitment to biblical and theological studies, spiritual formation, and the integration of faith and learning from a thoroughly Christian world view.” As well, this campus has a seminary for Evangelical lay and ministerial training.

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

Currently, Taylor University does not have a campus policy regarding students with disabilities.

Campus Map

The campus map is in the student handbook that all students receive upon registering at Taylor University College and Seminary. However, the map does not indicate accessible entrances, washrooms, etc. The Taylor University building was built in 1968, and does not have any automated entrances.

Other Tidbits

- ◆ In spite of some of the accessibility limitations, the student life office is fully committed to providing students with disabilities a barrier-free learning environment. Students with disabilities have attended the institution and have been supported in their endeavours by the student life staff.
- ◆ On April 27, 2002, the North American Baptist College officially changed its name to Taylor University College.

26. University of Alberta

Contact

Marion Vosahlo, Director
Specialized Support and Disability Services
2-800 Students' Union Building

Tel: (780) 492-3381
TTY: (780) 492-7269
E-mail: sadvisor@ualberta.ca

Web site: www.ualberta.ca/ssds

Safewalk: 492-5563

Highlight

Two years ago, Dr. Dick Sobsey was awarded the American Joseph Werner American Spirit Award for his research on violence against people with disabilities conducted through the J. P. Das Developmental Disabilities Center at the U of A. When interviewed for the U of A Express News, New York humanitarian Joseph Werner said he believes Sobsey is an ideal choice for the award. Sobsey was raised in New York and has done much for persons with disabilities in both the U.S. and Canada through research that focuses on helping both children with disabilities and adults with disabilities deal with mental, physical and sexual abuse.

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

In 1988, the U of A adopted the *Policy for Students with Disabilities*. It is available on-line at <http://www.ualberta.ca/~ssd/policy.htm>

Campus Map

Printed maps are available that include accessible entrances and DisAbled Transit System drop off points. The maps are not yet available on-line, although they will be posted soon. Maps can be picked up at the SSDS office. In order to access the Rutherford South library in a wheelchair, you have to wait for a buzzer to be answered.

Other Tidbits

- ◆ Assessments that need to be conducted to determine whether or not a student has a learning disability are done on campus.
- ◆ American Sign Language will be taught as a Language Course with the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies. Also, Non-credit courses will be offered at the SSDS office 2-3 times each school year, in 10 week sessions.

- ◆ The Career and Placement Services office at the U of A has a one-page guide to a variety of work-related web sites and resources for students with disabilities who are looking for a job.
- ◆ The Steadward Centre offers instructional programs and workshops in fitness, lifestyle, and activity for groups and individuals who have a permanent physical disability.

27. University of Calgary

Contact

Patricia Pardo, Director
Disability Resource Centre
293 MacEwan Student Centre

Tel: (403) 220-8935
TTY: (403) 220-2823
E-mail: ppardo@ucalgary.ca

Marilyn Samuels,
Learning Disabilities Advisor
Disability Resource Centre
293 MacEwan Student Centre

Tel: (403) 220-8237
TTY: (403) 220-2823
E-mail: msamuels@ucalgary.ca

Web site: www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/Others/DRC

Safewalk: 220-4750

Judy Smith, Office Manager
Disability Resource Centre
293 MacEwan Student Centre

Tel: (403) 220-8237
TTY: (403) 220-2823
E-mail: jusmith@ucalgary.ca

Highlight

In 2002, the University of Calgary's Disability Resource Centre (DRC) received the Canadian National Institute of the Blind's National Certificate of Merit for its leadership in supporting students who are blind, visually impaired, and deaf blind.

The award makes special mention of the resources available to students through the Nat Christie Centre for Adaptive Technologies. Cathy McFree, assistant executive director of CNIB Calgary, said, "This centre is one of the most outstanding technical resource centers in Alberta."

"I'm very honored to receive this award on behalf of the university," said Peggy Patterson, associate vice-president for student affairs. "For some time, the university has been attempting to ensure inclusiveness in post-secondary education. This award recognizes the importance of our Disabilities Resource Centre in achieving that goal."

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

The U of C policy regarding services for students with disabilities can be found at http://www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/Others/DRC/home_aap.shtml

Campus Map

U of C does not have a campus map, but it is on the "to-do" list for summer 2004.

Other Tidbits

- ◆ The DRC continues to offer a program to assist students with disabilities in making the transition into post-secondary learning. The program, *A Flying Start: Strategies for Success in Your University Adventure*, runs for half days the last week of August and provides individual strategy instruction through the fall term. If you are interested in the program, contact the DRC office.
- ◆ U of C has a Committee on Issues for Students with Disabilities (CISD). This committee has several responsibilities, but of particular note is its role in ensuring that existing guidelines, policies, and procedures are upheld.

28. University of Lethbridge

Contact

Counsellor
Counselling Centre
Student's Union Building SU140

Tel: (403) 317-2845
TTY: (403) 317-2829
E-mail: disability.inquiries@uleth.ca

Web site: http://www.uleth.ca/reg-cou/DisabilityInfo/disability_home.htm

Safewalk: 380-1888

Highlight

In 2003, the President's Advisory Committee on Disability Access organized a Disability Awareness Day event to promote awareness about disability issues on campus. Key note speaker, Ross Watson gave a moving, motivational speech about his rock climbing experience and the challenges of having a visual impairment. The event was open to the entire Lethbridge Community and it was very well received.

The President's Advisory Committee is working on a new resource website which will provide information to Prospective Students, Students and Faculty about issues like: Duty to Accommodate; How to Assist and Adapt material for students with disabilities; and Planning the Transition to University.

Campus Policy Regarding Students with Disabilities

Currently, U of L does not have a policy regarding students with disabilities, but guidelines are in place.

Campus Map

A detailed map outlining pertinent information for students with disabilities is available on line at <http://home.uleth.ca/pln/Parking/Map.jpg>. The map is also located at various entrances to the campus and is available through the Student Liaison and Recruitment office.

Other Tidbits

- ◆ The University of Lethbridge has a President's Advisory Committee on Disability Access. The advisory committee continuously reviews campus accessibility and suggests policy development that considers the needs of students with disabilities.

- ◆ Students with disabilities are eligible for registration priority. This means they can arrange schedules to avoid timetables that make it difficult to get from one class to another. The counselling office has tips on who should avoid back-to-back classes and why.
-

Section Three: “Bigger” Questions

1. How is university or college going to be different than high school?

Attending high school and attending college or university are very different experiences. Marilyn Samuels, from the Disability Resource Centre at the University of Calgary, has produced a guide that prepares students with disabilities for post-secondary learning. Here are some highlights from that booklet!

Managing Time

In High School

- ◆ You need to know when classes start and the order of your classes during the day.
- ◆ You spend about 25 hours in classes and maybe 10 hours studying per week.

In College or University

- ◆ You will spend between 15 and 25 hours in classes and up to 30 hours doing assignments and studying.
- ◆ You will need to:
 - ◆ Know when and for how long each class meets.
 - ◆ Leave enough time to get to your classes (it may be a 15 minute walk between buildings).
 - ◆ Plan how to use your time effectively between classes.
 - ◆ Develop a study and assignment plan to make sure you leave enough time to complete all your course requirements.

Problem Solving

In High School

- ◆ Your teacher and parents helped you solve problems.

In University (or College)

- ◆ You will need to recognize when you have a problem.
- ◆ You will need to solve your own problems.
- ◆ You will need to understand your options.
- ◆ You will need to know where to get help if you cannot solve a problem.

To Make the Transition Easier

There are many things that you can do to make the transition easier. Below are some suggestions.

- ◆ Prepare early.

- ◆ Understand and be able to describe your disability.
- ◆ Understand how you learn best.
- ◆ Be a central part of the decision making.
- ◆ Start slowly!
- ◆ Take fewer courses and stay on top of things. High grades are more important than finishing quickly.
- ◆ Do your own academic work.
- ◆ Meet your instructors.
- ◆ Ask for help before it's too late! Find out what supports are available to you.

2. How much does it cost to go to university?

Lots. Along with the usual costs of living (food, transportation, housing and utilities, entertainment), you need to consider tuition, books, supplies, and fees. Tuition varies from institution to institution. Here's a breakdown based on numbers we dug up from various institutions:

- ◆ You can expect to spend somewhere between \$3000 and \$4000/school year on tuition for a full-time college or university program.
- ◆ Books range from about \$80 to \$100/class, but could be much higher.
- ◆ Depending on the program you're in, you may need to buy supplies and equipment. For example at the University of Alberta, undergraduates in the science program will need to buy safety goggles and a lab coat for about \$50.
- ◆ As a student with a disability, there may be other costs you have to consider depending on the nature of your disability.

3. I have to leave my hometown in order to attend university. Any tips on where I should live?

Part of the fun of going to university is the independence you'll feel striking out on your own. But if you live in a community that has a college or university program that you want to attend, you may want to weigh the benefits of leaving home against the practical costs of living on your own. If financial stress is going to make it difficult to live on your own, this stress will affect your ability to learn, too.

Many of you, especially students from rural areas, won't have a choice about leaving home. If you need to move to attend college or university, here are a few points to consider:

- ◆ *Living in residence.* Many campuses have accessible on-site housing. Often residences have a meal program, and they are close to classes so transportation is less of an issue. Plus, you get to meet a lot of new people living in a residence!
- ◆ *Living on your own in the community.* Most student union offices have housing registries that outline rental options for students. You'll need to think about things like bus routes, accessibility of the accommodation, and the cost of rent.

- ◆ *Home Care.* If you receive home care and have to leave your community to attend college or university, remember that services are not as portable as they could be. This shouldn't deter you from attending classes, but you'll need to spend some time figuring out what your new situation will be and how to make the transition as smoothly as possible.

4. Are there any sources of funding that might help make my post-secondary training easier to achieve?

Yes! There are several funding options available.

- ◆ *Student Loans:* If you are working toward a degree or diploma you will be able to apply for a student loan. Student loan forms and information are available from each institution's financial aid office. (Web sites for accessing information and applications for student loans are included in the next section.)
- ◆ *Canada Study Grants:* If you are a student with a disability who is eligible for a student loan, you are also eligible for a Canada Study Grant. With a Canada Study Grant you can access up to \$5000 for disability-related costs such as the assistive services, training, and adaptive technology that might be part of your service plan. (See FAQ section, questions 5 and 6.) The disability service office will facilitate the application process.
- ◆ *DRES Funding:* If you are not eligible for a student loan or if your disability-related costs exceed \$5000, you can apply for Disability Related Employment Support (DRES) through Alberta Human Resources and Employment. The disability service office from your institution will facilitate the application process. Again, funding can be used to fulfill the accommodations outlined on your service plan.
- ◆ *Awards and Scholarships:* Many, many awards and scholarships are available to students. Some of them are internal awards intended solely for students at a particular campus, while others are awarded on a provincial or national basis. Some awards are directed at students with disabilities. Check with your high school counsellor, the financial aid office at the campus you plan on attending, or the disability services office for information and details on awards and scholarships.
- ◆ *Skills Development Grants:* If you are returning to school full time to upgrade your high school education, skills development grants can be accessed to defer the costs. The disability services office or the financial aid office at the institution you will be attending can provide you with information on these grants.
- ◆ *Bursaries:* If you are returning to school part time to upgrade your high school education, bursaries are available to assist you with tuition and book expenses. The disability services office at the institutions you will be attending can provide you with information on these bursaries.

Section Four: Useful Contacts

1. The following web sites provide useful information for students considering or continuing post-secondary studies in Alberta.

Alberta Committee of Citizens with Disabilities

<http://www.accd.net>

That's us! As well as developing this manual, ACCD undertakes a variety of research and educational activities. We are Alberta's only provincial, cross-disability, not-for-profit organization of and for people living with physical, mental, sensory, or cognitive disabilities. We offer a scholarship for students who are upgrading their education.

Alberta Learning Information Service

<http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca>

This provincial government site is worth a look! It includes all kinds of information on secondary and post-secondary learning in Alberta. It also links with sites on work- and career-related issues, student loans, awards and scholarships, post-secondary institutions, etc.

Canada Student Loans

<http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/common/home.shtml>

This site provides information and application forms for student loans.

Disability Related Employment Supports

<http://www.gov.ab.ca/hre/dres>

This site provides information on the funding that students are eligible for through Alberta Human Resources and Employment.

National Education Association of Disabled Students

<http://www.neads.ca>

This site has lots of interesting information regarding students with disabilities and post-secondary training. Check out CampusNet, an on-line collaborative community for campus-based, disability groups; a bulletin board for students to share their stories about going to school; and links to universities and colleges across the country.

1. Alberta College of Art and Design
1407 – 14 Avenue NW
Calgary, AB T2N 4R3
Ph: 1-800-251-8290
www.acad.ca
2. Athabasca University
1 University Drive
Athabasca, AB T9S 3A3
Ph: 1-800-788-9041
www.athabascau.ca
3. Augustana University College
4901 – 46 Avenue
Camrose, AB T4V 2R3
Ph: 1-800-661-8714
www.augustana.ca
4. Bow Valley College
332 – 6 Avenue SE
Calgary, AB T2G 4S6
Ph: 1-866-428-2663
www.bowvalleycollege.ca
5. Canadian University College
5415 College Avenue
Lacombe, AB T4L 2E5
Ph: 1-800-661-8129
www.cauc.ca
6. Concordia University College
7128 Ada Boulevard NW
Edmonton, AB T5B 4E4
Ph: 1-866-479-5200
www.concordia.ab.ca
7. DeVry Institute of Technology
2700 – 3 Avenue SE
Calgary, AB T2A 7W4
Ph: 1-800-363-5558
www.cal.devry.ca
8. Fairview College
Box 3000
Fairview, AB T0H 1L0
Ph: 1-888-999-7882
www.fairviewcollege.ca

9. Grand Prairie Regional College
10726 – 106 Avenue
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4C4
Ph: 1-888-539-4772
www.gprc.ab.ca
10. Grant MacEwan College
10700 – 104 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T5J 4S2
Ph: 1-888-497-4622
www.macewan.ca
11. Keyano College
8115 Franklin Avenue
Fort McMurray, AB T9H 2H7
Ph: 1-800-251-1408
www.keyano.ca
12. The King's University College
9125 – 50 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T6B 2H3
Ph: 1-800-661-8582
www.kingsu.ca
13. Lakeland College
5707 – 47 Avenue W
Vermilion, AB T9X 1K5
Ph: 1-800-661-6490
www.lakelandcollege.ca/
14. Lethbridge Community College
3000 College Drive South
Lethbridge, AB T1K 1L6
Ph: (403) 320-3200 or 1-800-572-0103
www.lethbridgecollege.ab.ca
15. Medicine Hat College
299 College Drive SE
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 3Y6
Ph: (403) 529-3811
www.mhc.ab.ca
16. Mount Royal College
4825 Richard Road SW
Calgary, AB T3E 6K6
Ph: (403) 440-6111
www.mtroyal.ab.ca

17. Nazarene University College
610, 833 – 4 Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2P 3T5
Ph: (403) 571-2550 Ext. 231
www.nuc.edu
18. NorQuest College
10215 – 108 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5J 1L6
Ph: (780) 422-2020
www.norquest.ca
19. Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
11762 – 106 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5G 3H1
Ph: (780) 471-7400
www.nait.ca
20. Northern Lakes College
1201 Main Street SE
Slave Lake, AB T0G 2A3
Ph: 1-866-652-3456
www.northernlakescollege.ca
21. Olds College
4500 – 50 Street
Olds, AB T4H 1R6
Ph: 1-800-661-6537
www.oldscollge.ab.ca
22. Portage College
Box 417
9531 – 94 Avenue
Lac La Biche, AB T0A 2C0
Ph: (780) 623-5580
www.portagec.ab.ca
23. Red Deer College
Box 5005
56 Avenue and 32 Street
Red Deer, AB T4N 5H5
Ph: (403) 342-3300
www.rdc.ab.ca
24. Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
1301 – 16 Avenue NW
Calgary, AB T2M 0L4
Ph: 1-877-284-7248
www.sait.ca

25. Taylor University College
11525 – 23 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T6J 4T3
Ph: 1-800-567-4988
www.taylor-edu.ca
26. University of Alberta
114 Street and 89 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T6G 2M7
Ph: (780) 492-3111
www.ualberta.ca
27. University of Calgary
2500 University Drive NW
Calgary, AB T2N 1N4
Ph: (403) 220-5110
www.ucalgary.ca
28. University of Lethbridge
4401 University Drive
Lethbridge, AB T1K 3M4
Ph: (403) 320-5700
www.uleth.ca

Feedback

This document was created with the input of students with disabilities from around the province. It is meant to answer some of the questions you might have when you begin to consider a post-secondary education.

How have we done? We want to hear from you!

If you are a student using our handbook, we will review your feedback before we update the handbook on our web page next spring.

If you are a disability service office and you find any errors in our information about your institution, we will promptly revise the on-line draft to include your comments.

You can provide us with feedback in two different ways:

Mail your feedback and ideas to

ACCD
707, 10339 – 124 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta
T5N 3W1

E-mail your feedback and ideas to

accd@accd.net

MISSION STATEMENT

The Alberta Committee of Citizens with Disabilities is a consumer-directed organization that actively promotes full participation in society for Albertans with disabilities.