



January 17, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

As we embark on a new year, we write to remind you of your roles and responsibilities regarding accommodations for students with disabilities and to provide you with University resources and guidelines.

Academic accommodations are meant to remove barriers faced by students with disabilities within the spirit of the Ontario Human Rights Code, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and with York University's human rights policies and practices.

<http://accessibilityhub.info.yorku.ca/aoda-compliance/>

Please review the Senate policy on accommodations for students with disabilities: <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-accommodation-for-students-with-disabilities-policy/>. Your course outline should conform to Senate approved guidelines:

<http://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/senate/academic-standards-curriculum-and-pedagogy-committee/>. Additional resources are provided as attachments to this letter. These include important information prepared by Counselling & Disability Services: Faculty Guidelines on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities and Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Recommended Protocol for Course Directors. This document discusses individual letters of accommodation, student responsibilities, course director responsibilities, recommended practices Course Directors are advised to follow to ensure that York meets its obligations, and the role of Disability Services (DS) within Counselling & Disability Services.

We provide links to additional resources that Course Directors and Teaching Assistants may find useful to improve teaching and enhancing students' learning experience. The Faculty Resource Guide is an excellent resource for teaching students with disabilities. The Teaching Commons Resources on Accommodations and Inclusive Teaching provides advice and strategies for creating welcoming and inclusive classrooms that benefit all learners.

<http://facultyawareness.blog.yorku.ca>

<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/resources-2/accommodations-and-inclusive-teaching/>

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York University's commitment to accessible university education and pedagogical innovation has long included the development of practices, policies and resources to create the best possible conditions for students with disabilities to demonstrate their learning and be successful university students. Should you have questions or concerns about aspects of a formal letter from DS that are not directly addressed in the guidelines, you should contact DS.

Disability Services in CDS: <http://ds.info.yorku.ca> 416-736-5297

Teaching Commons: <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca> 416-736-5754

York's Centre for Human Rights www.yorku.ca/rights 416-736-5682

We thank you for your attention and wish you all the best in 2017.

Warm Regards,

Alice Pitt, Vice-Provost Academic

Marc Wilchesky, Executive Director, Counselling & Disability Services

Michael Charles, Director, Centre for Human Rights

attach.