

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

This unique service exists to assist students with a variety of learning disabilities succeed in the university environment. Across the province, there are currently over 60 students at various post-secondary institutions who receive our services.

➤ COUNSELLING

The backbone of our program is the individualized counselling sessions offered to students throughout their academic careers. The learning disabilities counsellor is available to help students with academic and related difficulties.

The counsellor can provide assistance with course selection and program planning, tracking of academic progress, and determination of appropriate test and exam accommodations.

➤ ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE

In addition to the above, the counsellor can help students to learn more effective study skills, and to arrange proof reading services and tutoring in various subjects.

➤ EXAM ACCOMMODATION

Students with learning disabilities can take advantage (when necessary) of the opportunity to write exams at the Atlantic Centre. They may benefit from additional time or the use of a computer. Some students may need to have questions read out loud, or their answers dictated to a scribe. These exam accommodations are negotiated between the professor, student and counsellor.

➤ NOTETAKING

Fellow students are asked to volunteer as notetakers for those students with learning disabilities who would benefit from having someone take class notes for them. The volunteers are provided with special tear apart duplicating paper. The counsellor will organize this or students may prefer to make their own arrangements.

➤ EQUIPMENT

The support program has tape recorders and portable spell checkers available for loan. Students with learning disabilities also utilize the Atlantic Centre learning lab computers to complete assignments or write exams.

➤ LIBERATED LEARNING PROJECT

The Liberated Learning Project is an applied research initiative studying a unique application of speech recognition technology used as a tool for assisting students with disabilities in the university classroom. Students will . . .

- simultaneously **see** and **hear** the lecture as it is delivered -- text is displayed via a projector for the class in real time
- have access to edited lecture notes in various formats for some lectures

Visit <http://www.liberatedlearning.com> for more information.

➤ TAPED TEXTS

Recorded textbooks and reading materials are available from the Ferguson Tape Library. This service greatly enhances success for students with reading difficulties.

➤ ADVOCACY

Counsellors will advocate with faculty on behalf of the students. Although students are expected to maintain contact with professors, and become their own self-advocates, there are times when a more direct approach is necessary.