

General Overview of Academic Concessions, Accommodation of Religious Observance and Academic Accommodation

Included in the Academic Calendar are policies governing the grant of Academic Concessions, Accommodation of Religious Observance and Academic Accommodation at the University of Victoria. What follows is a general overview of how these policies are operationalized in the Faculty of Law. Additional information is included on the UVic Law Students and Academic Matters webpage.

Academic Concessions

Academic Concessions provide flexibility to students who face an inability to complete course requirements due to unexpected and unavoidable circumstances or conflicting responsibilities.

The grounds for academic concessions are as follows:

1. Unexpected and unavoidable circumstances, including, but not limited to,
 - a. Illness, trauma or bereavement,
 - b. Personal or family affliction, including responsibility to care for a family member, or
 - c. Indigenous cultural or community obligations; and
2. Conflicting responsibilities, including, but not limited to,
 - a. Service in the armed forces or emergency services,
 - b. Representing the university, the province or the country at an academic event, an athletic competition or an artistic performance

Examples of academic concessions include an extension of time to complete an assignment, a deferral of an examination date and withdrawal from a course without academic penalty.

The grant of academic concessions in the Faculty of Law is governed by the University of Victoria's [Academic Concessions Regulation](#) and [Guidelines](#), albeit with modified process. It is not necessary for a law student to submission a Request for Academic Concession in the form prescribed in that policy.

Instead, law students may ask an instructor for individual concessions within a specific course. Alternatively, at the student or instructor's discretion, requests for a concession may be submitted to Fran Blake, Coordinator, Academic Administration (lawcaa@uvic.ca). She is authorized to grant certain requests and will refer others to Yvonne Lawson, Manager, Academic Administration and Student Services or Andrew Newcombe, Associate Dean, Academic & Students Relations for decision.

In order to protect anonymity, all academic concession requests relating to assignments and exams written under codename should be directed to Fran Blake and not your instructor.

A student who is denied a requested academic concession may ask for that decision to be reviewed. A student may further appeal to the Senate Committee on Appeals.

Accommodation of Religious Observance

The University recognizes its obligation to make reasonable accommodation for students whose observance of holy days might conflict with the academic requirements of a course or program. This form of accommodation is set out in the calendar regulations on [Accommodation of Religious Observance](#).

In the event of a conflict, a student should first raise the issue with their instructor. If the conflict involves the submission of an assignment or exam written under codename, please contact Fran Blake, Coordinator, Academic Administration (lawcaa@uvic.ca).

Academic Accommodation

A student whose academic performance is impaired by disability, chronic health issues or similar potential barriers may be eligible for ongoing **academic accommodation**. Examples of academic accommodation include note-taking supports, access to adaptive technology in the classroom, and extensions on exam writing times. The grant of academic accommodation is generally managed through the University of Victoria's [Centre for Accessible Learning](#). Students are expected to contact the Centre for Accessible Learning, and to work with specialist staff there to identify academic supports appropriate for their condition. Yvonne Lawson liaises with students and instructors to ensure those supports are provided in each course.

In those cases where academic accommodation is not available through the Centre for Accessible Learning, the Faculty of Law offers **examination accommodation** in the form of additional exam writing time to students with demonstrated academic need. This accommodation is available for courses with timed examinations of eight hours or less. The need for examination accommodation is assessed by the Associate Dean, Academic and Student Relations on the basis of the student's academic record and any self-reported circumstances of adversity that produce academic disadvantage in the exam setting.

A student who is denied academic accommodation may ask for that decision to be reviewed. A student may further appeal to the Senate Committee on Appeals.

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