

Dear Parents & Guardians of UVic students,

The transition from K-12 to post-secondary education brings with it some differences in how students are supported, as well as how medical documentation is viewed.

A diagnosis of disability alone does not guarantee academic accommodations.

Accommodations are determined on a case-by-case basis and there are responsibilities (UVic policy: [AC1205](#) - Academic accommodation and access for students with disabilities) that must be met in order to secure them. You should be aware that your student may not receive all the accommodations requested or recommended by the assessor, nor will they necessarily receive the accommodations they had in high school or at any other educational institution.

Academic accommodations given in previous schools are not necessarily transferred to post-secondary. An IEP is not sufficient medical documentation. For more information on the differences between K-12 and University: [K-12 transition](#)

The university requires medical documentation with a formal diagnosis of disability that meets the University of Victoria policy. A diagnosis may not warrant accommodations. Some students with a diagnosed disability may require academic accommodations to allow them equal access to classes, programs, and coursework. An accommodation is the removal of a barrier to full participation and learning. **The emphasis is on access, not outcome or success.** This is done by providing students with a disability equal access to the content and activities of a course, but not necessarily assuring their success.

A link to general information about documentation requirements for the University of Victoria: <https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/onlineservices/register/documentation/index.php>

These requirements align with the Ministry of Advanced Education of British Columbia's policies and practices, and other BC University policies.

There are occasionally comorbid disabilities that exist. In light of these other conditions some academic accommodations may be warranted. Students are responsible for submitting medical documentation that meets the university's criteria for comorbid disabilities. A psychoeducational assessment that refers to a previously diagnosed disability is not sufficient medical documentation.