

Tip Sheet: Communicating with Students About Accommodation

These tips are based on Luckowski's (2016) research on experiences of nursing students with disability as well as evidence emerging from phase 1 of the ACTon project. The tips were also reviewed by disabled students at York University for accuracy and feasibility.

Start the conversation early

Speak explicitly and as early as possible with all your students about setting up accommodations. Make announcements to your class and reach out confidentially to students when appropriate.



Stigma towards disabled people is real

Students may feel hesitant to come forward to discuss their needs. Create a safe space for your students to discuss their accommodations with you.



Students can organize accommodations and not use them



Support students' accommodation learning

Students may not know what accommodations they will require in a new placement environment. Review with them the placement set up, environment or contextual issues that might impact student access, and learning objectives.



Connect with colleagues for guidance

Sharing successes of disability accommodation will build a culture of inclusion. Seek out training and identify resources.



Identify disabled students' strengths and weaknesses

Communicate both with your student and, when appropriate, the placement supervisor.



Be respectful of students who approach you later in the term about accommodations

There are lots of reasons why students may not request accommodations early. A student can request adjustments or new accommodations at any point during their program.



Advocate for your disabled students

Diversity builds a profession. Disabled students have a right to education and a right to accommodation.

