

Supporting Academic Progress at UTSC

Academic Advising & Career Centre & *AccessAbility* Services



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Campus Council, March 10, 2021



Academic Advising & Career Centre



Orientation & Retention Supports



3951 students
registered into virtual orientation

142 students
completed the program

3200 students
participated

3
semesters

5
cohorts (4 online)



Virtual Study Skills and Support

Winter 2020

"Learning to Surf" collaboration for 1st year CS students

4 sessions

418 participants

Summer 2020

Various study skills workshops including brand new sessions such as Adjusting to Online Learning and 4 Prep Yourself workshops

9 sessions

471 participants

Participation in panels, orientation sessions and videos

5 sessions

120 participants

In-class workshops

2 sessions

57 participants

Fall 2020 & Winter 2021

How to Study Sessions

19 sessions

241 participants

Study Together Sessions

18 sessions

50 participants

In-class workshops

9 sessions

125 participants

Sessions for DSA's/Athletes

4 sessions

44 participants

≡ Online Resources to Support Students During Pandemic

Tipsheet

Adjusting to Online Learning and Taking Online Exams

- How to study in the virtual environment
- Accessing technical support
- Resources from campus partners

Videos & Handouts

Top 5 Study Strategies for Academic Success

- Make it stick
- Maximize your study time
- Sharpen your focus
- Stay motivated & get organized
- Get ready for tests

Videos & Handouts

How to Get Ready for Tests

- Determine the test format & get organized
- Create a study plan
- Tailor your study strategies & create study notes
- Use the 3 keystone study strategies
- Use the test writing resources



Equity Deserving Students

Indigenous Programming
to Support Retention

Total Sessions

16

Total Attendees/Participants

222

Books & Bannock

Sessions

2

Attendees

8

Stream & Study

Sessions

8

Attendees

9

Indigenous Networking Event

Session

1

Attendees

9

Indigenous Student Check-In
(Case Management Approach)

Attendees

29

UTSC Indigenous House
Virtual Community Engagement

Attendees

112

Indigenous Student –
Academic Chat & Check-In

Sessions

4

Attendees

9

FYP – First Year Peers
“Indigenous Ways of Knowing Student Success”

Attendees

22

Indigenous Academic
Study Skills Ambassador

Secured

1

Indigenous Mentorship Day
(Tri-campus)

Session

1

Attendees

23



Choosing Your Program Month





AA&CC Career Programs, Services & Resources

Same day virtual appointments, and in-person ones by request

- 1240 Career appointments
- 217 Employment Peers appointments
- 191 Grad & Professional School Peers Appointment

Online Synchronous Job Search and Further Education Workshops

133 workshops (including 41 Career and Grad School Cafes led by peers and 50 sessions of JSC)

Job Seekers' Club

9 cohort groups over 80 students completed since May



Chat with a Professional

308 attended 25 sessions with guest speakers in 20+ professions

Enhanced Website & Online Resources

New more user-friendly structure, easy to access through both mobiles and computers

Summer Job Boot Camp Online Module

A brand new module developed to support first year experience as part of the Quercus course UTSC Student Experience and Well-Being



Supporting Graduates



Virtual Job Shadowing

- Winter 2021: 69 students participated with 26 hosts
- Fall 2020: 46 students participated with 20 hosts



Virtual Employer Networking Events and Info Sessions

39 employer events in total; 2231 students have attended



Virtual Get Experience and Graduate & Professional Schools Fairs

- Graduate & Professional Schools 687 attended – Tri Campus Initiative
- Get Experience Panel 167 attended



Get Hired Virtual Conference 2020

Successfully moved conference online in 6 weeks!

AccessAbility Services



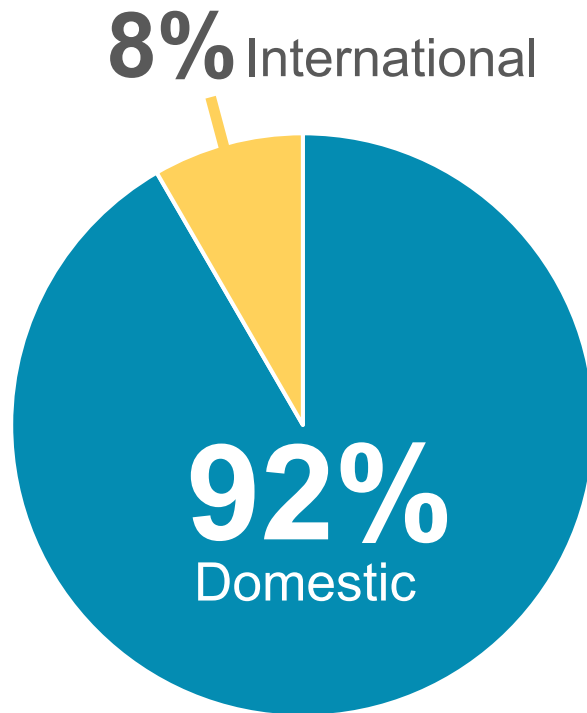
UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO





Demographics: Who are our students?

Total **1496** registered students
in 2019-2020



72.41% Reported non-evident/
non-visible disability

2.59% Visible disabilities

25% Combined visible and
non-visible

**#1 Disability type accommodated:
Mental health**

Student Engagement

Academic Achievement

- Revised academic accommodation plans to recognize remote learning
- Student FAQ on managing accommodations with take home exams

Flexibility and
compassion

Did you know...

- 8498 accommodated tests and exams
- 655 Peer Volunteer Note takers for 950 courses
- 3048 files accessed with specialized educational technology
(May 1, 2020 – Feb. 28, 2021)

Acquisition of knowledge, skills and competencies

- **Learning strategies:**
 - YouTube videos on studying and writing remote exams
 - Tip sheets for online learning, navigating educational technology with assistive technology
- **Mental Health strategies:**
 - Tip sheet on managing Mental Health When Engaging in Remote Learning

Social Connection

- Monthly Online Socials
- Social group for students on the autism spectrum
NEW
- Shared access to tri-campus *AccessAbility* Services programming

Faculty

Memos

*Duty to Accommodate:
COVID-19 Continuity Planning*

Supporting inclusive instructional design practices in partnership with the Centre for Teaching and Learning

- Accessibility Quercus Module
- “This worked for me” Webinar Series
- Creating accessible documents

NEW Shared Assistive Technology Consultant

FAQ on managing accommodations for take home exams

“How to” Guide: Applying accommodated time to Quercus online tests/exams

Online Assessment Types & Accessibility

- Using a common language for accommodations and Quercus requirements

In partnership with the tri-campus Accommodated Test and Exam, CTL/CTSI offices’ and *AccessAbility*



Tri-Campus Business Continuity Working Groups

AccessAbility Services Working Group

Accommodated Testing Services Working Group

Capacity Building:
Universal design for
learning, online
learning and
accommodations

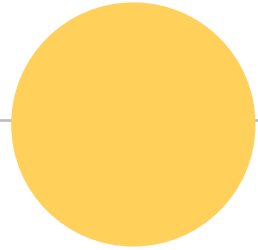
Infrastructure and Online Service Delivery

- New academic accommodations for remote learning
- Privacy and Confidentiality
 - Documentation upload
 - Confidential online meetings
- Service FAQ and updates

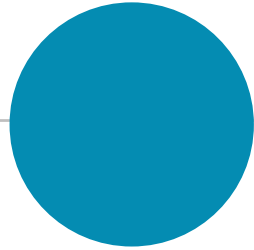
Tip sheet:
Communicating
when wearing a
mask

Policy Advocacy: OSAP

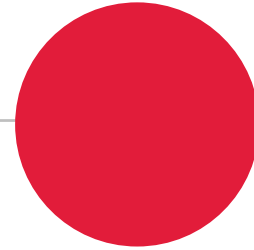
Temporary Measures



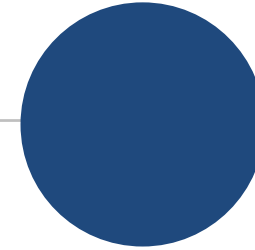
Disability
documentation
requirements



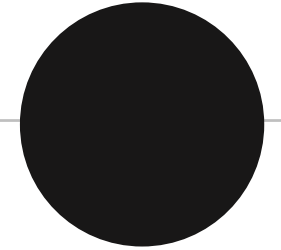
Access to
computers



Virtual
services
including
counselling,
educational
assistants, and
ADHD
coaches



Professional
services for
assessments



Application
funding
deadlines



Provincial Lessons Learned:

Mitigating and responding to potential impacts of COVID-19 on students with disabilities

Inter-University
Disability Issues
Association

Higher Education
Quality Council of
Ontario (HECQO)

[Improving the Accessibility of
Remote Higher Education:
Lessons from the pandemic
and recommendations](#)

Government of Ontario

AODA Postsecondary
Education Standard
Development Committee



Upcoming



Learning Strategist:
Accessibility
Specialist



New online modules

- Renewal of accommodations
- Online accommodation letters for faculty (expanded version)
- Online forms



AODA Postsecondary
Education Standard
Recommendations
released



Academic Success

88%

indicated using *AccessAbility* Services contributed to their academic success

93%

reported overall experience with *AccessAbility* Services was positive

June 2020 survey

“AccessAbility has truly changed my life. It has taught me to accept and understand my own disability. The appropriate accommodations has truly **contributed to my academic success.**” - UG student 2020

“I really cannot thank the staff with the AccessAbility Centre enough. It wasn't just that I was **able to get the accommodations I needed to succeed academically** in university, but also that I **gained confidence** in myself I never thought I would. I've been given the **tools and skills** needed to advocate for myself, both in terms of speaking with my professors about my needs, as well as potential employers/supervisors. This is something I never thought I would have the confidence to do. I'm so appreciative that the Centre **goes beyond just providing accommodations** for students, but also has numerous resources **where we can learn how to thrive in university, in the workforce, and life in general.**” - UG student 2020