

**I have a disability. Will Red Deer College waive entrance requirements because of my disability?**

No. Students with disabilities must meet the same admissions requirements as other students.

If you are required to take a placement or admissions test, you may use accommodations if you provide appropriate documentation.

**I'm considering applying to RDC and have some questions regarding my disability. Who can I discuss this with?**

If you have any questions, please contact a Disability Services Coordinator at 403.357.3629. They can answer any questions you may have and provide information about documentation requirements, services, accommodations, tours and funding.

Students who wish to access services and/or accommodations are required to **register with Disability Services**. It is important to contact our office **immediately after you apply for admission** to ensure that any supports are in place by the first day of classes.

**How do I register with Disability Services?**

To register, make an appointment with a Disability Services Coordinator by email [disabilityservices@rdc.ab.ca](mailto:disabilityservices@rdc.ab.ca) or phone 403-357-3629. If you already have documentation of your disability, bring it to your first appointment. The Disability Services office is located in the Library.

**Do I need to provide proof of disability?**

In order to be eligible to receive support services, you are required to provide current medical or psycho-educational assessment documentation, preferably three months in advance of your program start date.

Documentation should:

- be dated and signed on official letterhead by a professional qualified to make the diagnosis (e.g., a registered psychologist) or be completed on the RDC Request for [Medical Documentation form](#)
- have the diagnosed disability stated clearly and specifically (e.g., DSM-IV code)
- be current (e.g., within 3-5 years for ADHD/Learning Disability, 1 year for Mental Health Disability)
- describe how the disability and treatment, if applicable, impacts the individual's functioning in an academic setting and include specific recommendations for accommodations or services.

**Please note:**

Individualized Program Plans (IPPs) or documentation on prescription pads are not sufficient at the college level. Disability Services may request further assessment and/or documentation. If a psycho-educational assessment is necessary, a Disability Services Coordinator may be able to arrange this. Any cost involved in obtaining the required documentation is the student's responsibility.

**Is the information I provide to Disability Services kept confidential from my instructors?**

If you choose to register with Disability Services and access supports, your instructors will receive a Letter of Introduction from Disability Services informing them of your accommodation (e.g., extra time on exams, notetaking). **The letter will not release the nature or details of your disability.** Disability Services can release information only with your expressed written consent. We expect you to introduce yourself to our instructors and we are here to help you determine what and to whom you wish to disclose information about how your disability affects your learning or accessibility on campus.

**Please note:**

You are not required to disclose your disability to Disability Services at Red Deer College. This is required only if you are requesting supports through the Disability Services office while attending college.

**What types of disabilities are eligible for accommodations and services?**

Services are available to any RDC students who provide documentation of a disability. Examples of disabilities include:

- ADHD
- Chronic medical illnesses
- Deafness or hard of hearing
- Brain injuries
- Learning disabilities
- Physical disabilities
- Speech and language disabilities
- Mental health disabilities
- Blindness or low vision
- Temporary disabilities due to accident or illness

**What is an accommodation?**

Accommodations and support services are determined on an individual basis and designed to provide students with equal access to the educational process by reducing the negative impact of their disabilities.

**Accommodations can include:**

- Exam accommodations (e.g., extra time, quiet or alone space)
- Note-taking services
- Sign language interpreters
- CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation)
- Alternate format texts
- Scribe
- Assistive technology
- Memory aids
- Physical modifications to a classroom
- The right to carry a reduced course load and still be deemed a full-time student

**Accommodations are NOT meant to:**

- Lower the College's or the instructor's academic standards
- Alter requirements essential to the course of program
- Give a student with a disability an advantage over other students
- Guarantee that a student will be successful

**As a student with a disability, what are some other benefits of registering with Disability Services?**

A Disability Services Coordinator is available to meet with you throughout the course of the year. These meetings are at your request and can focus on various aspects of student support including:

- **Transitioning from high school to post-secondary education**

During this transition, it is natural for a student to feel very overwhelmed by the changes and the differences between a high school and post-secondary setting. A Disability Services Coordinator can be your “go to” person for any questions or concerns you may have throughout your academic career at RDC, and to provide information regarding **free on-campus services** for your academic, social and emotional well-being.

- **Course Selection**

A Disability Services Coordinator works as a secondary academic advisor to assist you with course load and course selection.

- **Problem Solving and Advocacy**

A Disability Services Coordinator can help with academic concerns. Whether it is an issue in a certain course, or a difficult assignment, our office is more than willing to offer advice and brainstorm with you for possible options.

- **Organization and Time Management**

Adjusting to college life can be a lot of fun, but it can also be really difficult. We understand that it is likely that this will be the first time you have been on your "own." We are available to help you figure out the best way to manage your academic, athletic, and, yes, even your social life. We can help connect you with the many resources RDC has available to all students.

- **Self-Advocacy**

College students with disabilities who are able to self-advocate and describe personal strengths and weaknesses possess two of the skills that increase successful outcomes in both school and the workplace. A Disability Services Coordinator can work with you to help develop those skills.

- **Funding and Scholarship Applications**

Some students may be eligible for disability-related funding for services and technology.

### **Does RDC offer accessible residence housing?**

Yes. There are a total of 12 accessible housing units. These units are attached to the Tower Residence complex designed primarily for students with mobility impairments and accessibility needs. This facility enables the student to go directly to class without having to go outside. For additional information, please contact the Residence office at 403.342.3257.

### **Parking**

#### **Is there accessible parking on campus?**

Yes. RDC has accessible visitor parking in the public lots, and students can apply for assigned accessible parking. Both require a valid Parking Placard for Persons with Disabilities. [Accessible parking](#) is strategically located to allow for ease of access to all College facilities.

To apply for accessible student parking, visit the Cashier's Office or contact them at 403.342.3121.