UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Engineering
ENGINEERING.USASK.CA

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ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Responsibility: Associate Dean Academic
Authorization: Student Academic Affairs Committee
Approval Date: June 27, 2019
Amended: -

1. PURPOSE

The College of Engineering aims to foster diversity, inclusiveness, and student success by ensuring that students with disabilities do not experience discrimination and that they receive equitable opportunities for academic success and personal development at the University of Saskatchewan.

The purpose of this *Academic Accommodation Policy* is to articulate the knowledge, skills, abilities, and requirements which all undergraduate students are expected to demonstrate in order to participate in and successfully complete the Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree program. This policy also identifies expectations for faculty, staff, and students in accessing and providing academic accommodations.

This policy aligns with and supplements the University of Saskatchewan's *Academic Accommodation and Access for Students with Disabilities Policy*. Relevant legislation, such as the *Saskatchewan Human Rights Code,* was considered in the development of this policy.

2. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this policy, disabilities are those defined as such in Section 2 of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Code. As such, 'disability' refers to:

(i) Any degree of physical disability, infirmity, malformation, or disfigurement and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes:
   a. Epilepsy;
   b. Any degree of paralysis;
   c. Amputation;
   d. Lack of physical co-ordination;
   e. Blindness or visual impediment;
   f. Deafness or hearing impediment;
   g. Muteness or speech impediment;

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h. Physical reliance on a service animal, wheelchair, or other remedial appliance or device; or

(ii) Any of:

a. An intellectual disability or impairment;
b. A learning disability or a dysfunction in one or more of the processes involved in the comprehension or use of symbols or spoken language; or
c. A mental disorder: a disorder of thought, perception, feelings, or behaviours that impairs a person's:
    i. Judgment;
    ii. Capacity to recognize reality;
    iii. Ability to associate with others; or
    iv. Ability to meet the ordinary demands of life.

3. PRINCIPLES

3.1 Accessibility. The College of Engineering will provide accommodations to the point of undue hardship to the institution to ensure that students with disabilities can access and succeed in the Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree program.

3.2 Registration. The College of Engineering is committed to assisting students with disabilities in the Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree program. However, academic accommodations will only be available to students who have registered with Access and Equity Service (AES) and have provided the required documentation of their disability.

3.3 Integrity. Academic accommodations are fundamental to support students with disabilities. When provided, academic accommodations shall not compromise academic requirements or standards of the University of Saskatchewan nor the integrity of the Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree program.

3.4 Compliance. The College of Engineering will fulfill its obligation under the Saskatchewan Human Rights Code and adhere to relevant University of Saskatchewan policies related to reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities.

4. SCOPE

The *Academic Accommodation Policy* applies to all undergraduate students registered in the Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree program. Some aspects also apply to applicants to the program. Implementation of this policy is a shared responsibility of faculty, staff, and students in the College of Engineering.

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5. POLICY

5.1 Purpose of Program

The Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree program aims to prepare graduates for a future career in the engineering profession. The curriculum is designed to impart a foundational and technical knowledge of mathematics, natural sciences, engineering science, engineering design, and complementary studies, as well as to develop student competency in the twelve graduate attributes prescribed by the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board.

5.2 Integrity of Program

The following are critical aspects related to the integrity of the Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree program. As such, they will inform decisions related to the provision of academic accommodations in the College of Engineering.

5.2.1 Accreditation

The Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree program is fully accredited by the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB). Accreditation status provides assurance to faculty, staff, students, alumni, and the broader community that graduates of the undergraduate program meet education requirements necessary for graduates to register as an Engineer-in-Training (EIT) in Canada.

Maintaining accreditation status is of paramount importance to the College of Engineering. Integrity of the undergraduate program is maintained through graduate attribute assessment, continuous program improvement, as well as ongoing monitoring and compliance with criteria and procedures prescribed by the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board.

Although curricular content, modes of delivery, and assessment methods may change over time, integral components of the curriculum (classroom, laboratory, and other learning experiences) will not be waived or compromised.

5.2.2 Essential Knowledge, Skills, Abilities, and Requirements

The Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree program is designed to impart the knowledge, skills, and attributes necessary for a graduate to pursue a career in the engineering profession. The program is primarily delivered in person at the University of Saskatchewan Saskatoon Campus and its curriculum contains various modes of delivery and learning experiences, many of which are experiential and team-oriented in nature.

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Applicants and undergraduate students are expected to possess essential knowledge, skills, and abilities as well as fulfil the requirements listed below in order to succeed in the degree program. Inability or failure to do so may prevent a student from successfully attaining the learning outcomes associated with the undergraduate program.

5.2.3 Essential Knowledge

Applicants are expected to have an elementary knowledge of chemistry, mathematics, and physics in order to succeed in engineering. Applicants are not expected to have pre-existing knowledge of engineering principles, engineering science and design, or related content prior to attending university. By virtue of meeting university admission requirements, applicants are assumed to possess the elementary knowledge needed to succeed in their engineering studies.

Undergraduate students are expected to develop a knowledge base for engineering, including mathematics, natural sciences, engineering sciences, engineering design, complementary studies, and other attributes throughout their undergraduate program. They are expected to meet all academic, program, and graduation requirements for their program in order to demonstrate competency in their field of study.

5.2.4 Essential Skills

Undergraduate students are required to develop individual and teamwork skills throughout the Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree program. As such, undergraduate students must have the ability to work independently and as part of a team. They are expected to participate to the best of their ability in all team-oriented aspects of their program.

5.2.5 Essential Abilities

Undergraduate students are required to possess some degree of visual acuity and manual dexterity. Significant mobility impairments may hinder students' ability to participate in some laboratories or field-based activities. The inability to complete all components of the degree will result in non-completion of the Bachelor of Science in Engineering program.

Undergraduate students are expected to be physically present for all required learning activities in the Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree program. They are expected to be in attendance and physically present for all core and elective courses, including lectures, laboratories, seminars, and other learning activities.

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5.2.6 Other Requirements

Undergraduate students are required to act in a manner that protects the health and safety of all faculty, staff, and students involved in the delivery of the Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree program. They are expected to be familiar with and adhere to all health, safety, and professionalism-related policies, procedures, and practices prescribed in their program of study.

5.3 Access to Academic Accommodations

Undergraduate students with disabilities are required to register with Access and Equity Services (AES) in order to qualify for academic accommodations. In doing so, they must provide the required documentation of their disability and specific accommodation requirements so that the institution can coordinate accommodations in an appropriate and timely manner.

Due to the intensive and specialized nature of the Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree program, implementation of accommodations may take some time. As such, undergraduate students are expected to arrange accommodations with Access and Equity Services (AES) in a timely manner. Failure to arrange academic accommodations in a timely manner may prevent provision of any/all requested accommodations.

5.4 Provision of Academic Accommodations

Provision of academic accommodations requires a coordinated effort by faculty, instructors, staff, students, and other stakeholders. As such, engineering faculty, staff, and students are expected to familiarize themselves with the University of Saskatchewan's *Academic Accommodation and Access for Students with Disabilities Policy*, as well as the College of Engineering's *Academic Accommodation Policy*.

Undergraduate students are responsible for organizing their own accommodation needs assessment, subsequent requirements, and academic accommodations. Access and Equity Services is the primary office responsible for providing guidance, referral, and support for academic accommodation processes. As such, undergraduate students should liaise with Access and Equity Services for regular and/or routine academic accommodation requests. Guidance and referral can also be provided by the Engineering Student Centre, as needed.

Engineering faculty and staff are expected to respond collaboratively, cooperatively, and confidentially to requests for academic accommodations. When issues or concerns with academic accommodations arise, engineering faculty and staff are encouraged to consult with the Associate Dean Academic.

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5.5 Accommodations Planning Committee

Undergraduate students requiring academic accommodations outside of what normally can be provided by an instructor or Access and Equity Services should be referred to the Associate Dean Academic. In turn, an ad hoc "Accommodations Planning Committee" (APC) shall be established to provide guidance for both the instructor and the undergraduate student.

The Accommodations Planning Committee shall consist of the Associate Dean Academic, at least one member of the College of Engineering faculty, a representative from Access and Equity Services, and a representative from the Engineering Student Centre. The undergraduate student may invite one advocate to accompany them at an Accommodation Planning Committee meeting.

The Accommodations Planning Committee shall be convened at the request of the Associate Dean Academic, the Student Academic Affairs Committee (SAAC) of the College of Engineering, Access and Equity Services (AES), the undergraduate student, or an instructor. The ad hoc committee's mandate is to evaluate the undergraduate student's situation, identify (where possible) reasonable academic accommodations, and decide upon a resolution. Decisions made by the Accommodations Planning Committee are final and can only be appealed at the college-level to the Dean for instances where verifiable evidence of procedural error, bias, or discrimination exist.

Accommodations deemed to go substantially beyond those typically provided by AES may be reported to the Student Academic Affairs Committee at the earliest opportunity, at the discretion of the Associate Dean Academic.

6. CONTACT

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