



Recognized
Prior
Learning

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The Early Childhood Education Recognition of Prior Learning Program

Accommodations

Date: January 2021

The Early Childhood Education Recognition of Prior Learning Program was developed through funding from the Canada - Nova Scotia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement and the Provincial Departments of Labour and Advanced Education and Education and Early Childhood Development.

Special Circumstances and Requests for Accommodation

The following outlines the principles and responsibilities for the provision of accommodations within the assessment process for Candidates in the RPL Program.

Accommodations are not intended to:

- reduce the Candidate's responsibility to meet competency standards;
- remove or alter essential program standards and requirements;
- remove or alter the fundamental requirements for assessment and independent demonstration of competencies; or
- diminish the integrity of the RPL Program.

Fulfilling the essential competency assessment requirements for the RPL Program remains the Candidate's responsibility.

AECENS aims to make the RPL program accessible to Candidates and will provide reasonable accommodations to Candidate's with disabilities and temporary health issues.

AECENS does not accommodate examinees with language limitations unrelated to a documented disability (e.g., English as a second language, literacy).

Accommodations are individualized and considered by AECENS on a case-by-case basis, and may include alternative examination formats (such as text-to-speech), the use of a private room, the use of proctors as readers or scribes in the examination setting, and, in some exceptional cases, additional writing time to complete the written examinations may be approved.

Assistive Devices

AECENS welcomes Candidates with disabilities and temporary health issues to use their own personal assistive devices as may be reasonably required to undertake the assessment process.

Assistive devices may include use of:

- hearing aids,
- speech or text interpreters,
- scooters, walkers or crutches to assist in mobility,
- magnifiers and canes to assist vision-impaired persons,
- service animals,
- separate testing room or extended testing time, and
- enlarged print documents.

Documentation Requirements

AECENS asks Candidates to provide specific documentation describing how they are impacted by their disability / temporary health issue in order to make an informed decision about the need for and the nature of accommodation(s).

The Candidate provides medical documentation prepared by a qualified practitioner that is:

- is current and relevant;
- describes the nature of the disability or temporary health issue, along with a detailed explanation of the functional impact of the disability / issue (a diagnosis alone is not sufficient to support a request for an accommodation); and
- describes the timelines for rehabilitation and recovery if the diagnosis is temporary.

Responsibilities of Candidates

Candidates with a disability or a temporary health issue who seek an accommodation have a responsibility to:

- contact AECENS to request an accommodation in a timely manner, allowing for individual arrangements to be made,
- provide the appropriate documentation,
- notify AECENS of any changes to their accommodation requirements, and
- comply with the instructions and procedures for developing and implementing the accommodation.

Candidates who are seeking accommodation, or who already have an accommodation in place, are responsible to ensure that the AECENS is kept up to date with clear, current, and credible documentation to support their accommodation.

Should a Candidate's medical situation change in any material way that could impact their accommodation (either an improvement or deterioration of status has taken place or is expected to take place), the Candidate is responsible to proactively and promptly advise AECENS of that change. AECENS may request updated medical information to ensure that the Candidate's accommodations are reasonable and appropriate in the new circumstances.

Confidentiality of Information Regarding Special Accommodations

Medical information received from a Candidate with respect to a request for accommodation(s) will be kept confidential. AECENS staff and contractors sign a confidentiality agreement to maintain the privacy of Candidate information and will only be informed of the Candidate's arrangements for accommodation only to the extent needed to execute the requested accommodation.

Definitions

“Accommodation” means:

- any modification that reduces or eliminates barriers to participation that may arise for eligible Candidates in the RPL Program.

“Candidate(s) with a disability” or *“disabilities”* means persons participating in the RPL Program who:

- have a significant and persistent mobility, sensory, learning, or other physical or mental health impairment;
- experience functional restrictions or limitations of their ability to perform the range of life’s activities; and

“Qualified practitioner” means:

- a medical doctor, registered psychologist or other health professional who is certified and / or licensed to practice their profession and who has specific training, expertise and experience in the diagnosis of the particular disability for which accommodation is requested.

“Temporary health issues” means:

- temporary medical impairments or injuries that are unrelated to a disability and are likely to be substantially resolved in less than four months (e.g.: broken leg, appendicitis, concussion, flu, infection).

“Assistive devices” means:

- equipment or methods which help a Candidate with a disability to maintain or improve their functioning, independence, and participation in the RPL Program.