



EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROGRAM

Access Assistants

Service Intro

Pivot Point offers support services for older teen and adult students requiring assistance as they work through their post secondary education. Our staff are trained and equipped to help remove educational and environmental barriers for students with Diverse Abilities. Through daily or weekly support on College or University campus and off, we provide behavioural and physical supports, as well as direct assistance with academic and learning needs through the following **three primary roles**:

Academic Strategists...

Academic Strategists are credentialed learning specialists with an expertise in Special Education who:

- Act as a liaison between the College or University's students, employees, and faculty to provide students with a smooth transition into post-secondary academic life,
- Liaise with student and academic advisors in developing an educational path surrounding the student's' areas of interest and focus,
- Develop a skills profile for each student for each of their courses,
- Determine and implement appropriate academic accommodations,
- Meet with faculty to promote inclusion of students in the classroom, and help to identify student needs/strategies for success,
- Use the computer and various software programs to assist students in the learning process; set up and assist with the use of adaptive equipment when needed,
- Provide daily or weekly support with direct homework, studying, test preparation as well as review of assignments for completion and submission
- Help to modify tests and assignments, develop study guides, review questions and project outlines,
- Assist students in accessing appropriate College or University resources (such as Financial Aid, Library, transportation services, and various student social groups).

Educational Attendants...

Educational Attendants are credentialed assistants who:

- Assist the student (and possibly their family) with orientation to the campus,
- Provide transportation to and from campus,
- Support feeding and toileting if needed,
- Attend classes with the student(s) when requested to provide note taking, lab support, and/or to assist with organizing course work and study materials,
- Set up a buddy-system network with other students; potentially including peer tutoring supports,
- Read and discuss course texts and related materials to the student as needed,
- Support students to participate in class,
- Assist with appropriate behaviour during class and support interactions with other students during class,
- Ensure safety of the student before, during and after class, and safeguard student property.

Post-Secondary Tutors...

Tutors are properly trained to support learning for the student *outside* of the school setting. They:

- Provide topic specific instruction and review practice materials in the individual's home or community,
- Assist with organization and planning of homework,
- Help prepare assignments and study for tests,
- Help breakdown assignments into manageable steps, and build a plan to complete them.

Our clients are...

Age 18 or older and currently enrolled in post-secondary studies at a College or University in British Columbia.

Academic Strategists, Educational Attendants and Tutor positions are typically funded directly through the Disability Resource Centre at each College or University. Canada Student Grants are available for Services and Equipment for Students with Permanent Disabilities.

Pivot Point's approach

As with all of our services, Pivot Point's Educational Assistants bring a positive and strengths focused approach to assisting our teen and adult students in post-secondary studies. Our aim is to facilitate a seamless integration into these College and University environments while creating opportunities that will empower and lead to greater participation and success for each student.

We believe in full inclusion, and we work hard behind the scenes to help that naturally emerge in the lives of the teen and adult students we support.

A typical session

Each student's support needs are unique. Some require full time support throughout each class, as well as transportation to and from College or University. For others, more assistance is desired at the start and end of each semester, where there are significantly more dynamics and variables to manage, with various check-in sessions every few weeks throughout the term.

How to get started

Check with your local college for Student Aid BC funding..

1) If you are already an Adult Services client at Pivot Point, contact your Program Assistant to ask about adding Access Assistant services to your current plan of care.

- Typically, this will also require you to contact your local College or University (Disability Resource Centre) to enquire about which of these two funded service options they have available for you.
- Alternatively, if you are paying privately for Access Assistant services where appropriate (or being reimbursed via extended Health Benefits), your Program Assistant will discuss how to add this financial contribution to your existing budget so that everything runs smoothly.

2) If you are not yet a client at Pivot Point, the best way to sign up for Access Assistant services is to contact us online at www.pivotpoint.ca/request-a-meeting. This is a confidential way to share your contact information, so that we can contact you. Be sure to describe the Access Assistant services you are looking for, as well as the name of the College or University where you are currently enrolled or hoping to attend. Our Manager in your area will call to set up a time to discuss service options with you.



Contact Us Today

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