

Customer Service Policy Statement:
Providing Goods and Services to People with Disabilities

Approved: November 26, 2009 [Executive Board]

1. Our commitment

Huron University College strives at all times to provide its goods and services in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities. We are also committed to giving people with disabilities the same opportunity to access our goods and services and allowing them to benefit from the same services, in the same place and in a similar way as other customers.

2. Providing goods and service to people with disabilities

Huron University College is committed to excellence in serving all customers including people with disabilities and we will carry out our functions and responsibilities in the following areas:

2.1 Communication

We will communicate with people with disabilities in ways that take into account their disability. We will train staff who communicate with customers on how to interact and communicate with people with various types of disabilities.

2.2 Telephone services

We are committed to providing fully accessible telephone service to our customers. We will train staff to communicate with customers over the telephone in clear and plain language and to speak clearly.

We will offer to communicate with customers by e-mail if telephone communication is not suitable to their communication needs or is not available.

2.3 Assistive devices

We are committed to serving people with disabilities who use assistive devices to obtain, use or benefit from our goods and services. We will ensure that staff are trained and familiar with various assistive devices that may be used by customers with disabilities while accessing our goods or services.

2.4 Billing

We are committed to providing accessible invoices to all of our customers. For this reason, invoices will be provided in the following formats upon request: hard copy, large print, and e-mail. We will answer any questions customers may have about the content of the invoice in person, by telephone or e-mail.

2.5 Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Huron University College provides academic accommodation for students under the [UWO policy](#) for Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities.

3. Use of service animals and support persons

We are committed to welcoming people with disabilities who are accompanied by a service animal on the parts of our premises that are open to the public and other third parties. We will also ensure that all staff, volunteers and others dealing with the public are properly trained in how to interact with people with disabilities who are accompanied by a service animal.

We are committed to welcoming people with disabilities who are accompanied by a support person. Any person with a disability who is accompanied by a support person will be allowed to enter Huron University College's premises with his or her support person. At no time will a person with a disability who is accompanied by a support person be prevented from having access to his or her support person while on our premises.

Fees will not be charged for support persons for admission to events conducted by Huron University College on its premises. Customers will be informed of this by a notice that will be posted on Huron University College's web site.

4. Notice of temporary disruption

Huron University College will provide customers with notice in the event of a planned or unexpected disruption in the facilities or services usually used by people with disabilities. This notice will include information about the reason for the disruption, its anticipated duration, and a description of alternative facilities or services, if available.

The notice will be placed at the main entrance, the web site, and information desk on our premises.

5. Training for staff

Huron University College will provide training to all employees, volunteers and others who deal with the public or other third parties on their behalf, and all those who are involved in the development and approvals of customer service policies, practices and procedures. All faculty and staff as well as temporary staff in the following positions will be trained:

- All full time, part-time and sessional faculty
- All full time, part-time staff
- All Phona-Thon volunteers

This training will be provided within three months after staff commence their duties.

Training will include the following:

- The purposes of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 and the requirements of the customer service standard
- How to interact and communicate with people with various types of disabilities
- How to interact with people with disabilities who use an assistive device or require the assistance of a service animal or a support person
- What to do if a person with a disability is having difficulty in accessing Huron University College's goods and services

Applicable staff will be trained on policies, practices and procedures that affect the way goods and services are provided to people with disabilities. Staff will also be trained on an ongoing basis when changes are made to these policies, practices and procedures.

6. Feedback process

The ultimate goal of Huron University College is to meet and surpass customer expectations while serving customers with disabilities. Comments on our services regarding how well those expectations are being met are welcome and appreciated.

Feedback regarding the way Huron University College provides goods and services to people with disabilities can be made by e-mail or verbally. All feedback will be directed to The Chief Administrative Officer. Customers can expect to hear back in no more than 48 hours. The CAO can be reached at huroncao@uwo.ca or (519) 438-7224 x 245.

7. Modifications to this or other policies

We are committed to developing customer service policies that respect and promote the dignity and independence of people with disabilities. Therefore, no changes will be made to this policy before considering the impact on people with disabilities. Any policy of Huron University College that does not respect and promote the dignity and independence of people with disabilities will be modified or removed.

8. Questions about this policy

This policy exists to achieve service excellence to customers with disabilities. If anyone has a question about the policy, or if the purpose of a policy is not understood, an explanation should be provided by, or referred to, the Chief Administrative Officer.