Psychoeducational Assessments

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Outline

- Overview of ARCs
- Services provided by ARCs
  - Transition
  - Research
  - Training
  - Assessment
- Psychoeducational assessments
- How to access assessment services
- Assessment costs
- Questions

Assessment Resource Centres (ARCs)

In 1997, the Ontario government created a Learning Opportunities Task Force (LOTF) to:

- investigate the status of post-secondary students with learning disabilities
- to make recommendations that would enhance access and services for students with specific learning disabilities.

The final report, submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) in 2002, contained 7 key findings and 24 recommendations. One of the key findings was that:

> *"A significant majority of the students arrived at (post-secondary) institutions with no, or at best **inadequate, diagnostic information**. As a result, students had **neither appropriate documentation nor an understanding of their own learning disabilities**. A comprehensive, up-to-date diagnostic assessment is essential for the provision of requisite supports, services, programs and accommodations for students with learning disabilities."*
>
> Learning Opportunities Task Force, 1997 to 2002, Final Report

Assessment Resource Centres (ARCs)

2 ARCs in Ontario

1. **Northern Ontario Assessment Resource Centre (NOARC)** housed at Cambrian College, Sudbury, Ontario
   - Covers Northern Ontario
   - Includes all publicly-funded PSEs north of Ottawa and Barrie

1. **Regional Assessment Resource Centre (RARC)** housed at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario
   - Covers Southern Ontario
   - Includes all publicly-funded PSEs south of Ottawa and Barrie

+1 CFERO

- Launched in 2014, housed at Collège Boréal, Sudbury, Ontario.
- Provides French language assessments
- Includes PSEs located in Northern Ontario or in one of the regions served by Collège Boréal.

Assessment Resource Centres (ARCs)

- Since opening in 2002, the ARCs have expanded their mandate to include students with other neurodevelopmental disorders.
- Services focus on supporting incoming and current post-secondary students with neurodevelopmental disorders to help them understand and mitigate the impact of functional impairments in an academic context.

Regional Assessment Resource Centre (RARC)

RARC is a Centre of Excellence housing clinical psychologists, educators, transition specialists and researchers.

Services provided under 4 pillars:

Transition

Research

Training

Assessment

RARC: Transition

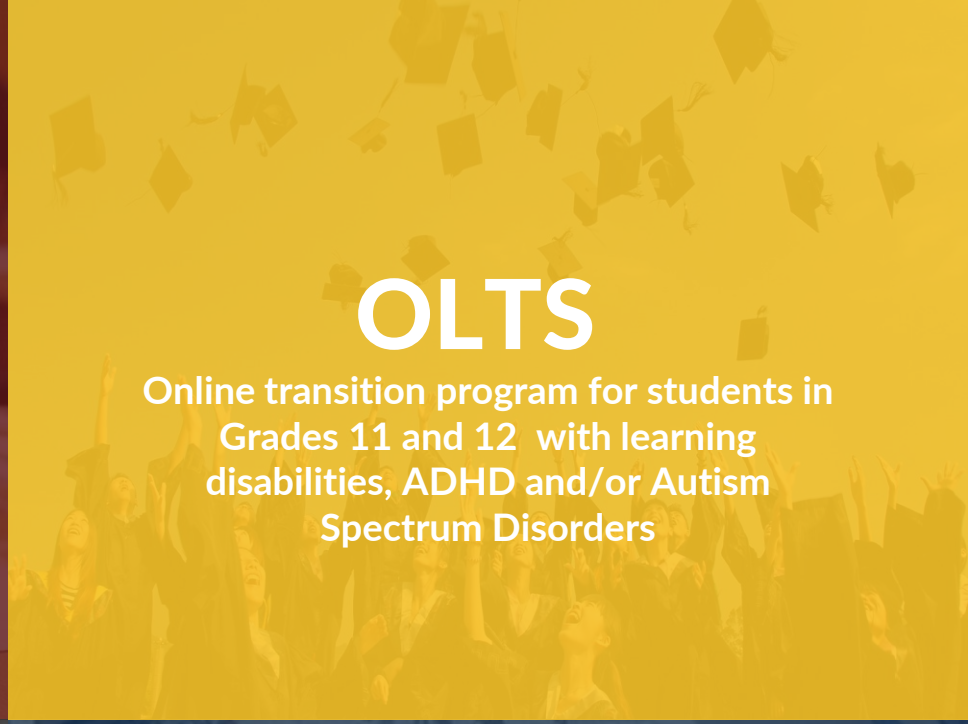
- RARC offers several exciting initiatives to support students with disabilities as they transition to high school, post-secondary education, and beyond.
- These free transition programs help participants build skills and knowledge, while also meeting others with similar experiences in a fun and supportive atmosphere.
- Our programs address topics such as self-understanding and self-esteem, IEPs and accommodations, adaptive technology, self-advocacy, stress management, and positive mental health.

For more information:

- https://www.queensu.ca/rarc/transitions/overview

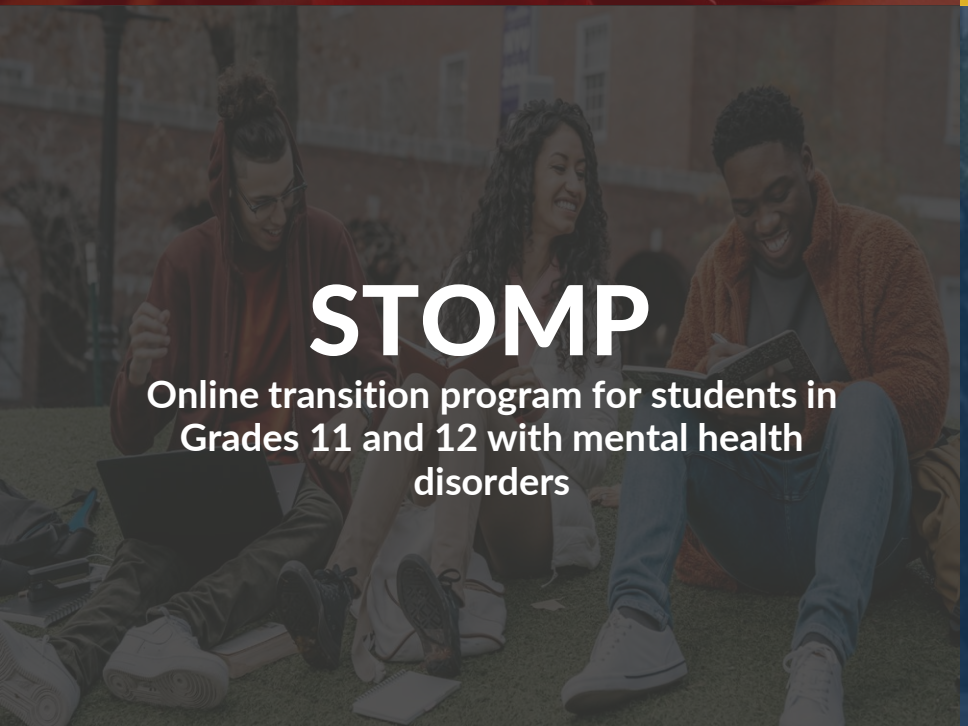
STEPS

A two-year in-person program for Grade 7 and 8 students with learning disabilities, ADHD and/or Autism Spectrum Disorders



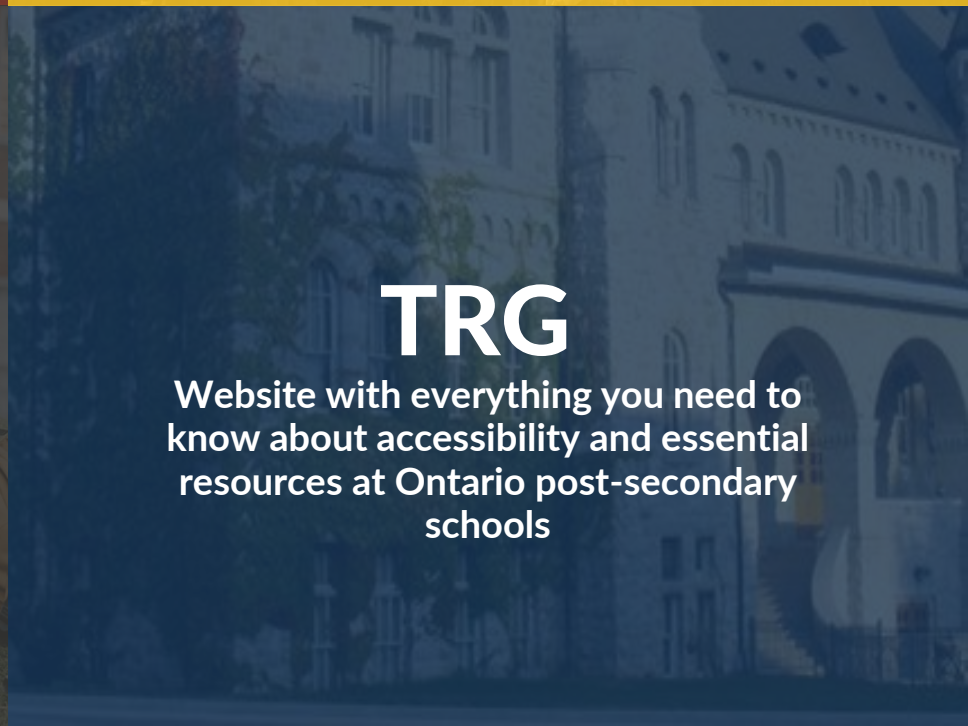
OLTS

Online transition program for students in Grades 11 and 12 with learning disabilities, ADHD and/or Autism Spectrum Disorders



STOMP

Online transition program for students in Grades 11 and 12 with mental health disorders



TRG

Website with everything you need to know about accessibility and essential resources at Ontario post-secondary schools

STEPS PROGRAM

- SELF-KNOWLEDGE
- SELF-ESTEEM
- IEP SUPPORT
- ADVOCACY
- ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY
- HIGH SCHOOL PREP
- PARENT PROGRAMMING
- UPDATED ASSESSMENT

OLTS & STOMP PROGRAMS
SELF-KNOWLEDGE
SELF-ADVOCACY
RESEARCH SCHOOLS
DISCLOSURE
ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY
RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
STUDY SKILLS
SELF-CARE

TRANSITION RESOURCE GUIDE

www.transitionresourceguide.ca

FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Learn About Accessibility

- Rights and Responsibilities
- Accessibility Services
- Advocacy & Disclosure
- Support Services at Post-Secondary
- Specific Disability info

Plan Your Journey

- Getting Started
- Choosing College or University
- Financial Aid
- Transition Stories
- Checklists

Research Schools

- Colleges
- Universities

SYUS

Online program supporting the transition to Queen's University

EYES-ON-PSE

Online program supporting the transition to Ontario post-secondary school

EYES-ON-PSE: Equipping Yourself for Educational Success in Ontario's Post-Secondary Education

EYES-ON-PSE is a free, online asynchronous post-secondary prep course laid out in six, self-paced, easy-to-navigate modules.

- Designed to leave students feeling significantly more prepared, informed, and confident as they begin post-secondary education. Big changes exist between the high school and post-secondary environments that can make the transition difficult for any student.
- EYES-ON-PSE was created with funds from the Virtual Learning Strategy (VLS) project as part of the provincial government's eCampus Ontario strategy to provide accessible online resources to students, faculty, parents and staff working and learning in the post-secondary environment.

For more information go to: https://www.queensu.ca/rarc/eyes-on-pse

RARC: Research

- We conduct research on neurodevelopmental disorders, assessment, and accommodations.
- Publish guidelines on best practices for specific accommodations, including memory aids and extended time.
- Knowledge translation through training and talks to various organizations as well as at conferences.
- Go to https://www.queensu.ca/rarc/research for more information on our recent publications.

RARC: Training

- RARC offers training and education in psychological assessment, therapeutic interventions, consultation, interdisciplinary treatment planning, and ethical and professional development.
- Previous trainees include undergraduate and graduate students in psychology, occupational therapy and education, psychologists completing their supervised year of practice, pre-doctoral interns and community psychologists.
- Annual Workshop for Accessibility Advisors and practitioners, typically in October in Kingston.
- For more information go to https://www.queensu.ca/rarc/training/overview

RARC: Assessment

- RARC is funded by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities to provide access to assessment services for post-secondary students with neurodevelopmental disorders who require accommodations in the academic environment.

- **To be eligible for an assessment, students must:**
  - Currently be attending post-secondary, or accepted into a post-secondary institution
  - Have a documented or suspected neurodevelopmental disorder
  - Have evidence of historical and current academic impairment (grades consistently at a C or lower when no accommodations are provided)

Spotlight on Psychoeducational Assessments

A Psychoeducational Assessment

- **identifies areas of strength and areas of need** with respect to relevant areas of cognitive, academic, behavioural, and social/emotional functioning.
- is often recommended when a student is **experiencing academic, socio-emotional and/or behavioural difficulties** and the individual and/or educational institution are interested in **understanding the underlying cause(s)** for these difficulties
- **can be conducted at any age**, but is typically initially requested during the elementary school years
- can be used to identify and diagnose **Learning Disabilities, Intellectual Disabilities, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, and Autism Spectrum Disorder**

Spotlight on Psychoeducational Assessments

A Psychoeducational Assessment

- Starts with a clear referral question
- **Includes:**
  - Review of documentation including report cards, previous assessment reports, Individual Education Plans (IEPs), etc.
  - Clinical interview, including
    - Medical/Developmental
    - Family/Social
    - Academic/Employment
    - Behavioural/Psychological

Spotlight on Psychoeducational Assessments

A Psychoeducational Assessment

- Administration of psychometric measures of:
  - Overall ability
  - Cognitive processes related to learning
  - Academic achievement
  - Behavioural functioning
  - Psychological functioning
  - Study skills/work habits
  - Additional areas as needed

Spotlight on Psychoeducational Assessments

A Psychoeducational Assessment

- A summary report outlining:
  - Functioning in various cognitive and academic areas assessed
  - Descriptions of findings from behavioural and psychological measures
  - Clinical implications of findings
  - Accommodations, interventions, and supports warranted
- A meeting with the student and/or family/advocate/PSE personnel to discuss the findings

Spotlight on Psychoeducational Assessments

A Psychoeducational Assessment

- **Benefits:**
  - Identifies possible reasons for underachievement and strategies to help the student access the post-secondary environment
  - Rule in/rule out various factors that may be impeding academic success
  - Helps students understand their strengths and weaknesses as a learner
  - Assists students in identifying appropriate accommodations, interventions, and supports to address areas of need
  - Provides documentation required by post-secondary institutions to provide formal accommodations

Spotlight on Psychoeducational Assessments

- **How to access them:**
  - RARC (https://www.queensu.ca/rarc/assessments/overview)
  - NOARC (https://www.noarc-cerno.ca/assessment/)
  - CFERO (http://cfero.ca/our-services/psycho-educational-assessments/)
  - Community Psychologists (https://cpo.on.ca/)

RARC: Assessment

COSTS:

- **RARC Psychoeducational Assessments**
  - Typical cost $2400
  - Psychoeducational Assessment + ASD $2800

- **RARC Neuropsychological Assessment**
  - Cost $2800

- **Private Assessments**
  - $2000 to $4000 depending on the area and practitioner

How to Access Funds to Cover Assessment Costs

- Out-of-pocket
- Private health insurance
- Bursary for Students with Disabilities (BSWD) through OSAP (Fed or Fed/Prov)
- Jordan's Principle or Inuit Child First Initiative (if 17 or under)
- Band Council specific funding (ensure pre-approved)
- Sliding Scale (ARCs- subsidized by MCU)

Questions?

Thank You!

Regional Assessment and Resource Center (RARC): www.queensu.ca/rarc

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