Students with Disabilities in Health Professions and Beyond

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May 14, 2025

Brighter World | McMaster University

Acknowledgements

Shaminder Dhillon
Paige Maylott
Dina Brooks
Kate Brown
Ashley Kirk
Elliot Storm
Lyn Turkstra
Rob Whyte

Student partners
Michelle Ira Roque
Arrthi Manoharalingam

Outcomes

Evidence Based ways to Increase Representation of Students with Disabilities at McMaster

✓Advisory Committee

- 3 meetings over 2 years
- 3 students with lived experience
- SAS, MacPherson, FHS Leadership

✓Scoping Review

- Protocol – Published in JBI Evidence Synthesis
- Methods Paper – Published Journal of Innovative Research (JIR)
- Manuscript – Accepted with Medical Teacher - **Strategies to Increase the Accessibility of Health Professional Programs for Students with Disabilities** (Best Evidence Medical Education (BEME) recognition)

PROTOCOLS

Strategies to increase accessibility for students with disabilities in health professional programs: a scoping review protocol

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Author Information

JBI Evidence Synthesis 22(12):p 2625-2635, December 2024. | *DOI:* 10.11124/JBIES-23-00484

Metrics

Journal of Innovative Research (JIR)

Volume 3 Issue 1, Year 2025
ISSN: 2837-6706 (Online)
DOI: https://doi.org/10.54536/jir.v3i1.3946
https://journals.e-palli.com/home/index.php/jir

Integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into the Data Extraction Phase of a Scoping Review

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Outcomes

Improve inclusion of students with disabilities by educating faculty, enhancing support and considering intersectionality

- **Pod Cast**
  - 1 completed with an OT who is disabled
  - Student partners project for this summer to finalize this work
- **OT Student Evidence Based Practice Project (EBP)**
  - Scoping Review - The exploration of ability/disability in intersectionality and health professional education literature
  - Presentation of results in June 2025

Improve Fieldwork Opportunities for students with disabilities

- ✓**Survey of Clinical Educators**
  - Completed in Spring 2025
  - Representation across health professional programs
  - Collaboration with a Faculty Member from UBC - Dr. Tal Jarus, PhD
- **Manuscript**
  - In preparation

Lessons learned

- Consider strategies that can address a variety of learning needs (i.e. Universal design)

- Education for staff and faculty
    - Legislation, policy and procedures
    - Critical reflection on personal biases
    - Culture change towards health professionals with disabilities

- Opportunities for co-design policies and processes with students, preceptors, faculty and staff

- More work to do!!