Accessibility Services (Blundon Centre)

Accommodated Testing Service

Guidelines on the use of smart glasses in assessment environments

Memorial University recognizes that smart glasses and similar wearable technologies have legitimate accessibility, communication, and lifestyle applications. However, smart glasses (and similar wearable technologies) often incorporate features such as cameras, audio and video recording, audio and video playback, internet connectivity, artificial intelligence (AI) assistance, and real-time communication capabilities that may pose a significant risk to integrity, security, and fairness of assessments.

To protect the integrity of the assessment environment as well as examination materials, students writing accommodated assessments through the Blundon Centre's Accommodated Testing service are not permitted to wear smart glasses (or similar wearable technologies) during assessments unless the device has been reviewed and approved in advance as part of a documented accommodation process.

Students utilizing the services of the Blundon Centre's Accommodated Testing service who require corrective eyewear and choose to incorporate smart glasses as part of their daily lifestyle are required to possess an alternate (analog) pair of corrective eyewear that are not considered "smart" for the purposes of completing assessments at the Centre. This alternative eyewear (i.e. traditional eyeglasses) must not contain cameras, provide audio and/or video recording, audio and video playback, allow internet connectivity, leverage artificial intelligence (AI) assistance, or possess real-time communication capabilities. If a student is scheduled to write an assessment and cannot produce a pair of traditional (non-smart) eyewear, they will be prevented from sitting their exam and may have to seek instructor permission to reschedule their exam.

Prior to sitting an assessment, students must declare and remove any wearable technology, including smart glasses, before entering an examination room. Testing staff are authorized to conduct visual inspections of all eyewear prior to commencement of an examination. Testing staff may require the removal, or secure storage of any device that is deemed to compromise the security of the exam or the assessment environment. Failure to disclose possession or use of wearable technology, or failure to comply with these requirements will result in testing staff notifying the course instructor. This may result in the matter being referred to the appropriate academic or administrative bodies under the University Calendar academic misconduct regulations (Section 6.12).

This approach seeks to balance accessibility, privacy, equity, and academic integrity while ensuring that students with disabilities are afforded equitable access to academic assessments.

Where a student requires a form of wearable technology for disability-related reasons, the Blundon Centre will work with the student, their medical provider and the course professor to determine whether the device can be used safely and appropriately within the examination setting or whether alternative reasonable accommodations may be required.

Definitions

Assessments: any invigilated test, quiz or exam including in-term and final exams.

Smart glasses: refers to eyewear that contain electronic components capable of recording audio or video, transmitting or receiving information, accessing the internet, displaying digital content, or interacting with artificial intelligence applications. Examples include, but are not limited to, AI-enabled glasses, augmented reality glasses, and camera-equipped wearable devices.

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