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**Renison University College**  
Affiliated with the University of Waterloo  
40 Westmount Road North  
Waterloo, ON Canada N2L 3G4  
Phone: 519-884-4404 | [uwaterloo.ca/renison](http://uwaterloo.ca/renison)

## Renison University College Land Acknowledgement

With gratitude, we acknowledge that Renison University College is located on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Hodinohsyóni, and Attawandaran (Neutral) Peoples, which is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometres on each side of the Grand River from mouth to source. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place in all corners of our campus through research, learning, teaching, community building and outreach. We are guided by the work of our Reconciliation and Restoring Steering Committee and Anti-Racism and Decolonization Spokesouncil, as well as the [University of Waterloo's Office of Indigenous Relations](#).

## Winter 2024

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**Course Code: SDS312R/SWREN312R**

**Course Title: Homelessness and Public Policy**

***Class Times/Location: Monday & Wednesdays 1-2:20 pm***

**Instructor: Gail Hoekstra MSW**

***Office: REN 1451***

***Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 2:30 – 3 pm or by appointment***

***Email: [gail.hoekstra@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:gail.hoekstra@uwaterloo.ca)***

### Course Description

This introductory course provides students with a basic overview of homelessness in Canadian society. The goal of this course is to familiarize students with the human, social, political, and economic aspects of homelessness. Throughout the course, the emphasis will be on understanding homelessness from a social & cultural perspective. Topics covered may include, but are not limited to, the incidence and prevalence of homelessness, its etiology, the causes & consequences of homelessness, housing & shelter, and finally policy solutions and strategies for addressing/preventing homelessness.

**This Syllabus is largely taken from the previous syllabus of Dr. Tracy Peresini.**

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes - (Upon completion of this course, students should be able to)**

- A. Define homelessness and understand the policy issues that impact homelessness
  - Students will be able to identify how public policies impact the experience of homelessness in communities
- B. Describe what homelessness looks like in communities
  - Students will be able to describe the core groups of people experiencing homelessness
  - Students will be able to describe homelessness from an urban/rural perspective; cultural, gender and age perspective
- C. Identify the core issues facing individuals and communities in addressing homelessness
  - Students will be able to explain the path into homelessness
  - Students will be able to explain the medical health, mental health, addictions, housing, and economic experiences of individuals that are homeless

**Recommended Text**

- Hughes, James (ed.) (2018) Beyond Shelters: Solutions to Homelessness in Canada from the Front Lines. Toronto: James Lorimer & Company.
- Layton, Jack (2008). Homelessness: How to End the National Crisis. Toronto: Penguin Canada Books
- De Jong, Iain (2019) The Book on Ending Homelessness. The Friesen Press Bookstore.
- Perrin, Benjamin (2023) Indictment: The Criminal Justice System On Trial. University of Toronto Press

**Course Requirements and Assessment**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Date of Evaluation (if known)</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Infographic	January 31st	25 %
Community Review	February 14th	25 %
Policy Analysis	March 13th	25 %
Group Presentations	March 25th – April 3rd	25%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

***Infographic – Due Date: January 31st. Weight: 25%***

For this assignment, you will research, create, and design a two-page infographic on any topic related to homelessness. This infographic will be an original piece of work that will include data from a variety of sources and perspectives. Infographics briefly summarize data, research and information on a specific topic or issue. Infographics come in a variety of formats. Formats include, graphs and images, issue maps, brochures, and newspaper style columns. On a separate sheet provide a bibliography /reference in alphabetical order. Research Requirement: no less than 5 academic journal articles and 5 other sources. This assignment is based on academic/scholarly research, which is properly sourced, cited and referenced. Please submit your infographic to its drop box. By 11:55 p.m. on January 31st to avoid a late penalty.

***Community Review – Due Date: February 14th. Weight: 25%***

For this assignment you will pick a city or town in Canada and describe the issue of homelessness as it is experienced in this chosen context. In this assignment you will describe what homelessness looks like from various perspectives such as the local demographics; economics; population (rural vs urban); culture; health; justice, child protection, housing, employment as examples. Please review media articles, data from community organizations and any information from individuals with lived/living experiences of homelessness. This assignment can be handed in as a 5–7-page paper or in a more creative way such as a “podcast” or a media/newspaper report.

***Policy Analysis – Due Date: March 13th. Weight: 25%***

In this assignment you will take your information from your assignment #2 and then reflect on how public policies intersect and influence the experience of homelessness in the context chosen. This assignment will critically examine how these public policies can be both barriers and/or contribute to solutions to homelessness. In this assignment you can look at either one issue such as housing first to deconstruct how a public policy impacts homelessness or pick more than one policy to review.

***Group Presentation – March 13- April 3rd. Weight – 25%***

The intent of this assignment is to provide students the opportunity to work collaboratively to investigate and analyse an issue related to homelessness to demonstrate your understanding of the topic and the complex and interconnected causes of homelessness and its consequences. Groups of 3 will be selected and each group will pick a topic they would like to focus on regarding homelessness. Each student will submit a paper to the group, and this will be merged into a cohesive presentation on the topic you have chosen.

Presentations should be no more than 20 minutes. Each group member must contribute to the presentation. The type of knowledge and information should consist of the following: relevant definitions, current findings/information on the topic, theories and/or explanations related to your topic and your conclusions about your topic. Your presentation will be evaluated based on the quality of your presentation and the type(s) of knowledge you summarize in your presentation. Each group must upload a copy of their presentation to the drop box before the class they are presenting in and must hand in a copy of the presentation references on a separate page.

Your presentation should consist of the following information:

1. Thesis Statement/Question
2. Creative/Interesting Presentation of the relative information and facts on your topic
3. Identify & apply relevant concepts, theories, ideas and explanations from the course readings & lectures
4. Identify and describe key research findings
5. Identify and describe ways in which the issue/topic has been addressed in public policy, programs, services and/or social action
6. Present Conclusions

### Course Outline

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
1	Jan 8 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction and Overview of the Course	n/a
	Jan 10 <sup>th</sup>	The History of Homelessness	Layton, Chapter 1; Finding Home: Introduction – Homelessness: What’s in a Word? (homelesshub.ca)
2	Jan 15 <sup>th</sup>	Defining Homelessness	Layton, Chapter 2; Iain De Jong; The Book on Ending Homelessness; Part 1 Homelessness: What it is and What It Isn’t

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
	Jan 17 <sup>th</sup>	Video: The Great Toronto Homeless Count	Layton, Chapter 3; Finding Home: 8.3 Towards A Strategy for Counting The Homeless
3	Jan 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Research In Homelessness	Layton, Chapter 3; Finding Home: 8.3 Towards A Strategy for Counting the Homeless
	Jan 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Group Organization – Attendance Mandatory- Preparation for Group Presentations</b>	No readings
4	Jan 29 <sup>th</sup>	Explanations of Homelessness	Layton, Chapter 6 <a href="https://oaktreeguelph.ca/conversation-4-finding-solutions/">https://oaktreeguelph.ca/conversation-4-finding-solutions/</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyhGi5rbA9U">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyhGi5rbA9U</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2V4h4-Sd1A">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2V4h4-Sd1A</a>
	Jan 31 <sup>st</sup>	Pathways into Homelessness  Infographic Assignment Due – Weight 25%	Layton, Chapter 4-5 <a href="https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75-006-x/2022001/article/00002-eng.htm">https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75-006-x/2022001/article/00002-eng.htm</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1lcA_T8BcGU&amp;t=26s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1lcA_T8BcGU&amp;t=26s</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CPoKlwl8_K8&amp;t=369s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CPoKlwl8_K8&amp;t=369s</a>
5	Feb 5 <sup>th</sup>	Sociodemographic Traits	Layton, Chapter 4-5 <a href="https://madeinca.ca/homelessness-statistics-canada/">https://madeinca.ca/homelessness-statistics-canada/</a> <a href="https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75f0002m/75f0002m2023004-eng.htm">https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75f0002m/75f0002m2023004-eng.htm</a>
	Feb 7 <sup>th</sup>	Sociodemographic Traits	<a href="https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/157797/homelessness-statistics-in-the-world">https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/157797/homelessness-statistics-in-the-world</a> <a href="https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75-006-x/2022001/article/00002-eng.htm">https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75-006-x/2022001/article/00002-eng.htm</a>

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
6	Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>	Health Of the Homeless - Mental Health - Medical Health Social/Community Health	Layton, Chapter 4-5 <a href="https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/82-003-x/2021001/article/00002-eng.htm">https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/82-003-x/2021001/article/00002-eng.htm</a> <a href="https://www.wellington.ca/en/social-services/resources/Housing/GuelphWellington-2021-Everyone-Counts---PiTCount-Infographic-AODAUpdated.pdf">https://www.wellington.ca/en/social-services/resources/Housing/GuelphWellington-2021-Everyone-Counts---PiTCount-Infographic-AODAUpdated.pdf</a>
	Feb 14 <sup>th</sup>	Addictions and Homelessness  <b>Community Review- Assignment due- Weight 25%</b>	<a href="https://www.hqontario.ca/Portals/0/documents/qi/health-links/mha-supports-at-transition-en.pdf">https://www.hqontario.ca/Portals/0/documents/qi/health-links/mha-supports-at-transition-en.pdf</a> <a href="https://www.ontario.ca/files/2024-01/moh-oht-path-forward-en-2024-01-22.pdf">https://www.ontario.ca/files/2024-01/moh-oht-path-forward-en-2024-01-22.pdf</a> <a href="https://guelphwellingtonoht.com/">https://guelphwellingtonoht.com/</a> <a href="https://www.mcmasterforum.org/docs/default-source/rise-docs/partner-resources/2022-02-09_webinar_oht-data-strategy.pdf?sfvrsn=8f3146ee_7">https://www.mcmasterforum.org/docs/default-source/rise-docs/partner-resources/2022-02-09_webinar_oht-data-strategy.pdf?sfvrsn=8f3146ee_7</a> <a href="https://bist.ca/brain-injury-and-homelessness/">https://bist.ca/brain-injury-and-homelessness/</a> <a href="https://www.diabetes.ca/about-diabetes/stories/helping-people-who-experience-homelessness-manage-their-diabetes">https://www.diabetes.ca/about-diabetes/stories/helping-people-who-experience-homelessness-manage-their-diabetes</a>
	Feb 19	Family Day	n/a
	Feb 17 – 25	Reading Week	n/a
7	Feb 26 <sup>th</sup>	Unsheltered Homelessness	<a href="https://www.homelesshub.ca//sites/default/files/HousingFirstInCanada.p">https://www.homelesshub.ca//sites/default/files/HousingFirstInCanada.p</a> <a href="https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/canada/employment-social-development/corporate/reports/evaluations/homelessness-partnering-strategy/homelessness-partnering-strategy-EN.pdf">https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/canada/employment-social-development/corporate/reports/evaluations/homelessness-partnering-strategy/homelessness-partnering-strategy-EN.pdf</a>
	Feb 28 <sup>th</sup>	Housing First	<a href="https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/right-home-report-consultation-human-rights-and-rental-housing-ontario/housing-human-right">https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/right-home-report-consultation-human-rights-and-rental-housing-ontario/housing-human-right</a> <a href="https://housingrights.ca/right-to-housing-legislation-in-canada/">https://housingrights.ca/right-to-housing-legislation-in-canada/</a> <a href="https://www.placetocallhome.ca/human-rights-based-approach-to-housin">https://www.placetocallhome.ca/human-rights-based-approach-to-housin</a>

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
			<a href="https://omssa.com/blog-waterloo-encampment-decision-may-2023.php">https://omssa.com/blog-waterloo-encampment-decision-may-2023.php</a> <a href="https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/waterloo-region-s-encampment-court-ruling-sends-very-strong-message-to-cities-across-the-province-1.6255810">https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/waterloo-region-s-encampment-court-ruling-sends-very-strong-message-to-cities-across-the-province-1.6255810</a> <a href="https://www.tvos.org/article/a-tale-of-two-tent-cities-what-rulings-in-ontario-and-bc-mean-for-homeless-encampments">https://www.tvos.org/article/a-tale-of-two-tent-cities-what-rulings-in-ontario-and-bc-mean-for-homeless-encampments</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G9gMCAmMWys&amp;t=344s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G9gMCAmMWys&amp;t=344s</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ki5zs_1sPhk&amp;t=199s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ki5zs_1sPhk&amp;t=199s</a> <a href="https://www.kingstonist.com/news/no-specific-timeline-set-for-daytime-clearing-of-kingston-encampment/">https://www.kingstonist.com/news/no-specific-timeline-set-for-daytime-clearing-of-kingston-encampment/</a>
8	Mar 4 <sup>th</sup>	NIMBY-ism and Social Justice	<a href="https://caeh.ca/bright-spot-yimby/">https://caeh.ca/bright-spot-yimby/</a> <a href="https://www.homelesshub.ca/FromNIMBYtoNeighbour">https://www.homelesshub.ca/FromNIMBYtoNeighbour</a> <a href="https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/NIMBY-UnderstandingHomelessness-Summary.pdf">https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/NIMBY-UnderstandingHomelessness-Summary.pdf</a> <a href="https://buildhomesnotbarriers.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/NIMBY-Package-Print_FINAL-Victoria.pdf">https://buildhomesnotbarriers.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/NIMBY-Package-Print_FINAL-Victoria.pdf</a>
	Mar 6 <sup>th</sup>	Criminal Justice and Homelessness	<a href="https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/indictment-the-criminal-justice-system-on-trial/id1704952245?i=1000630807952">https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/indictment-the-criminal-justice-system-on-trial/id1704952245?i=1000630807952</a> Chapter 3- Indictment- Ben Perrin Chapter 13- Indictment- Ben Perrin
9	Mar 11 <sup>th</sup>	Class Time to Work on Presentation	No readings
	Mar 13 <sup>th</sup>	Group Presentations <b>Policy Analysis Assignment Due- Weight 25%</b>	
10	Mar 18 <sup>th</sup>	Group Presentations	No readings
	Mar 20 <sup>th</sup>	Group Presentations	
11	Mar 25 <sup>th</sup>	Group Presentations	No readings

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
	Mar 27 <sup>th</sup>	Group Presentations	
	Mar 29	Good Friday	
12	Apr 1 <sup>st</sup>	Group Presentations	No readings
	Apr 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Group Presentations	

### **Late or Incomplete Work**

Students should make every effort to submit their assignments on time. Late work will be deducted cumulatively at 10% each day that the assignment is late, including weekends. If a student anticipates a conflict with an assignment deadline or has concerns about completing the assignment, the student should contact the instructor as soon as possible once the realization is made.

### **Coursework Submission Policy**

As each assignment is equally weighted, all assignments and the group presentation are required to pass the course. All assignments in the course will have their own drop box. Assignments must be uploaded to its respective drop box by 11:55 on the date the assignment is due. The drop box will close at 11:55 and students attempting to submit their assignment after must contact the professor to arrange for the box to be opened and to be assigned a late penalty.

### **Policy on Plagiarism**

“Policy 71’s glossary defines plagiarism, in part, as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others (whether attributed or anonymous) as one’s own in any work submitted whether or not for grading purposes”.

The Vice-President Academic and Dean has the authority to assess instances of plagiarism and the resultant penalties that are raised by an instructor. An instructor can propose a grade penalty to the Vice-President Academic and Dean, who will decide whether to accept the penalty or initiate a formal inquiry.”

For additional information on how plagiarism is dealt with at Renison, review the policy from where the above text is copied: [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#).



Students should also be aware that copyright laws in Canada prohibit reproducing more than 10% of any work without permission from its author, publisher, or other copyright holder. See Waterloo's policy on [Fair Dealing](#). Violation of Canada's Copyright Act is a punishable academic offence under [Policy 71 – Student Discipline](#).

### **Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)**

This course includes the independent development and practice of specific skills, such as collecting, synthesizing, and analyzing information along with developing and practicing writing skills and creative presentation styles. Therefore, the use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) trained using large language models (LLM) or other methods to produce text, images, music, or code, like Chat GPT, DALL-E, or GitHub CoPilot, is not permitted in this class.

Unauthorized use in this course, such as running course materials through GenAI or using GenAI to complete a course assessment is considered a violation of Policy 71 (plagiarism or unauthorized aids or assistance). Work produced with the assistance of AI tools does not represent the author's original work and is therefore in violation of the fundamental values of academic integrity including honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and courage (ICAI, n.d.). You should be prepared to show your work. To demonstrate your learning, you should keep your rough notes, including research notes, brainstorming, and drafting notes. You may be asked to submit these notes along with earlier drafts of their work, either through saved drafts or saved versions of a document. If the use of GenAI is suspected where not permitted, you may be asked to meet with your instructor or TA to provide explanations to support the submitted material as being your original work.

Through this process, if you have not sufficiently supported your work, academic misconduct allegations may be brought to the Associate Dean.

In addition, you should be aware that the legal/copyright status of generative AI inputs and outputs is unclear. More information is available from the Copyright Advisory Committee:

<https://uwaterloo.ca/copyright-at-waterloo/teaching/generative-artificial-intelligence>

Students are encouraged to reach out to campus supports if they need help with their coursework including:

- Student Success Office for help with skills like notetaking and time management

- Writing and Communication Centre for assignments with writing or presentations
- AccessAbility Services for documented accommodations
- Library for research-based assignments Choose a policy from the document attached in the email -GenAICourseOutlineText2023\_08\_28

### **Electronic Device Policy**

Students who choose to use electronic devices to support their learning may do so provided that the individuals in the class are not disturbed or prohibited from their own learning. Electronic devices should be used for the purposes of supplementing the learning experience and focus on topics being discussed in class. Phones should be kept on silent during the class.

### **Attendance Policy**

Student should make every effort to attend each class and class component (tutorial, lab, etc.) as scheduled. If a student is aware of an upcoming absence, the student should inform the instructor as soon as possible after the realization.

### **Communication Policy**

Email, using the uWaterloo provided email address, is the approved method of communication for Renison. The Office 365 email that you use to login using your WatIAM login and password is secure and confidential. Take caution when forwarding your WatIAM email to an external email service as confidential information forwarded to a third-party provider could be a data security breach and violation of FIPPA (Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act) under which all students, staff, and faculty are bound by law.

### **Final Examination Policy**

For **Winter 2024**, the established examination period is **April 11 – April 25**. The schedule will be available early October. Students should be aware that student travel plans are not acceptable grounds for granting an alternative final examination time. See the [Final Examination Schedule](#).

### **Accommodation for Illness or Unforeseen Circumstances**

The instructor follows the practices of the University of Waterloo in accommodating students who have documented reasons for missing quizzes or exams. See [Accommodation due to illness](#).

## **Accommodation Due to Religious Observances**

The University acknowledges that, due to the pluralistic nature of the University community, some students may seek accommodations on religious grounds. Accordingly, students must consult with their instructor(s) within two weeks of the announcement of the due date for which accommodation is being sought. Failure to provide a timely request will decrease the likelihood of providing an accommodation. [See Request for accommodation on religious grounds.](#)

## **Academic Integrity, Grievance, Discipline, Appeals and Note for Students with Disabilities**

**Academic Integrity:** To maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity](#) and the [Arts Academic Integrity](#) websites for more information.

Renison University College is committed to the view that when a problem or disagreement arises between a faculty member and a student every effort should be made to resolve the problem through mutual and respectful negotiation. Most issues are resolved by a student/faculty meeting to discuss differences of opinion. It is only after this stage, when a common understanding or agreement is not obtained that further actions listed below could be taken.

**Discipline:** Every student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their own actions. [Check the [Office of Academic Integrity](#) website for more information.] A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration, should seek guidance from the course professor or academic advisor. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties are imposed under the University of Waterloo [Policy 71 – Student Discipline](#). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check the [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4](#). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the

Department's administrative assistant, or Academic Advisor, who will provide further assistance.

**Appeals:** A decision made or penalty imposed under [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances](#) (other than a petition) or [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals](#).

**Academic Integrity Office (UWaterloo):** The website can be found at [uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/](http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/)

### **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

[AccessAbility Services](#) is located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, and collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

Students are encouraged to register with AccessAbility Services (AAS) at the start of each term if they require accommodations due to a disability. However, some students not connected to AAS may require accommodations later in the term. In that case, you should immediately consult with your instructor and/or your Academic Advisor.

### **Intellectual Property**

Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of the instructor, which can include:

- lecture handouts and presentations (e.g., PowerPoint slides)
- lecture content, both spoken and written (and any audio or video recording thereof)
- questions from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams)
- work protected by copyright (i.e., any work authored by the instructor)

Making available the intellectual property of instructors without their express written consent (e.g., uploading lecture notes or assignments to an online repository) is considered theft of intellectual property and subject to disciplinary sanctions as described in [Policy 71 – Student](#)

[Discipline](#). Students who become aware of the availability of what may be their instructor's intellectual property in online repositories are encouraged to alert the instructor.

## **Mental Health Support**

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

### **On Campus**

- [Counselling Services](#): counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4096
- [MATES](#): one-to-one peer support program offered by the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) and Counselling Services
- [Health Services](#) – Student Medical Clinic: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

### **Off Campus, 24/7**

- [Good2Talk](#): Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- [Empower Me](#): Confidential, multilingual, culturally sensitive, faith inclusive mental health and wellness service.
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 844-437-3247
- [Here 24/7](#): Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- [OK2BME](#): set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning teens in Waterloo. Email: [ok2bme@caminowellbeing.ca](mailto:ok2bme@caminowellbeing.ca) Phone: 519-884-0000

Full details can be found online at the [Faculty of ARTS](#) website.

Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources \(PDF\)](#)

Download the [WatSafe](#) app to your phone to quickly access mental health support information.

## **A Respectful Living and Learning Environment for All**

Everyone living, learning, and working at Renison University College is expected to contribute to creating a respectful environment free from harassment and discrimination.

Harassment is unwanted attention in the form of disrespectful comments, unwanted text messages or images, degrading jokes, rude gestures, unwanted touching, or other behaviours meant to intimidate.

According to the Ontario Human Rights Code, discrimination means unequal or different treatment causing harm, whether intentional or not, because of race, disability, citizenship, ethnic origin, colour, age, creed, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, or other personal characteristic.

If you feel that you are experiencing the above from any member of the Renison community (students, staff, or faculty), you may contact Melissa Knox, Renison's external anti-harassment and anti-discrimination officer, by email ([mnknox@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mnknox@uwaterloo.ca)) or by phone or text (226-753-5669). Melissa is an employment and human rights lawyer and part-time Assistant Crown Attorney for the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General. Melissa is experienced in case management, discipline and complaints processes, and works with organizations across Canada to foster safe, respectful, and inclusive work and learning environments through policy development, educational workshops, conflict mediation and dispute resolution, and organizational culture audits.

For additional information see Renison's [Harassment, Discrimination, and Abuse](#) policy.