

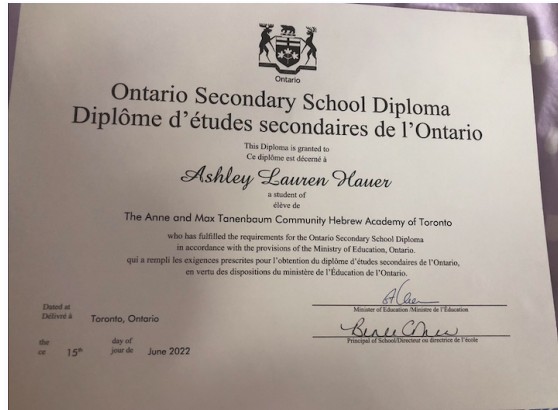
DCCI Scholarship for Canadian Students with Disabilities

Submit an original essay of 500-700 words with the following topic: “How your disability shaped your decision to study the program you chose”

My Career Goals are to pursue the Social Sciences. I have had ambitions to go into the Social Sciences throughout High School, specifically psychology, social work, or law because I want to make an impact on people's lives, the society as a whole, and be a listening ear to people. I know that I am so fortunate to have family, friends, etc, who are good listening ears for me when I have a problem and need advice or to just rant, but some people do not have that, trust to open up, or are comfortable going to someone they know. Being that person is a way I can continue to give back to people something so important for people's mental health. I would like to promote the importance of Mental Health and how a balance is needed in life in order to keep your mental health stable which is so important. If I do not go into Psychology, I will most likely go into law for similar reasons. I want to make a difference in people's lives, get justice for wrong-doing, and keep society as maintainable and in order as possible. These careers also both align with my strength or passion for the Social Sciences and Arts in school as I would have to or can go through the arts to get these degrees. Both of these careers are in high demand because Mental Health and Justice are needed as I stated, to keep a functioning society, and I would love to play a role in that! My disability has also added to my drive to go into these fields. In December of 2020, I was diagnosed with Inflammatory Bowel Disease. I felt pretty alone at the beginning of my process because just the year before this, I was completely healthy, and my diagnosis happened at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in which I have been extremely cautious not to catch it. I did not know, and truly, still do not know where to get the support I need. Getting nervous makes my symptoms worse, as well as certain foods. I do not have a dietitian or any medical support to help me navigate this system. My family has been an extremely strong support system through these hard times. If I did not have them, I do not know how I would deal with this medical illness. As well, a diagnosis like IBD tends to have a stigma since it has to do with the bowels and how we discrete. I typically do not like telling my friends I have IBD, I just leave it as “I have stomach problems”, or “I am Lactose Intolerant” - which I am as well. Despite my medical diagnosis being the opposite of a joke, I tend to put on that front to not feel embarrassed when I do have to avoid certain foods, or cancel plans if I am not feeling well. To conclude, this again elaborates on the reason I want to be a support person as a career. I want to help people navigate through times like these in which people feel alone, unsure where and who to turn to, and I would like to be that person. If I take the law route, then I can fight for injustices if they occur for people with disabilities since, unfortunately, this happens more often then imagined.

ALL of the following documents must be provided for consideration:

- Proof of graduating high school in 2022



- Proof of Fall 2022 acceptance to an accredited post-secondary institution (proof or registration to health care, criminal justice or community & social services studies will be required before the scholarship is awarded)

Hello Ashley,

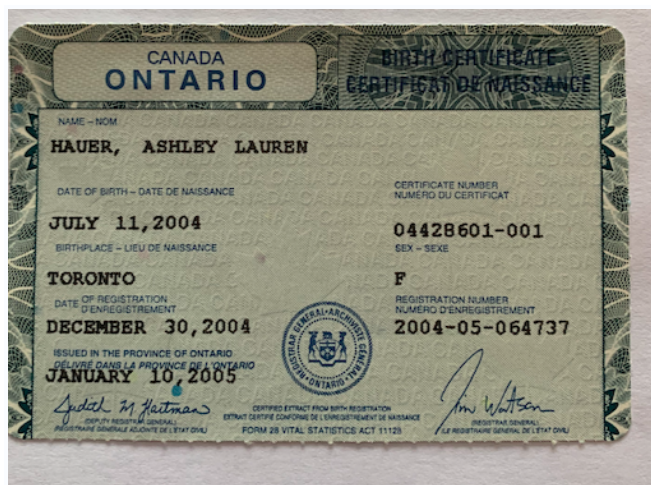
Your final academic results have been received and you have satisfied the conditions of your offer of admission to Social Sciences 1 for September 2022.

Your admission to McMaster University is now deemed to be final. A final admission letter will not be provided – this email should be considered as verification of your final admission status.

Congratulations on your achievements and welcome to the McMaster University community!

Sincerely,
Admissions Office
McMaster University

-
- Proof of Canadian citizenship or permanent residency



- Documented proof of disability



Dr. Cynthia Popalis, MD, FRCPC

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Web: <http://www.boomeranghealth.com>

2022-07-22

Re: HAUER, ASHLEY, 11/07/2004 (d/m/y)

To Whom It May concern,

I am Ashley's treating pediatric gastroenterologist. Ashley has ulcerative colitis and also lactose intolerance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'C Popalis'.

Dr. Cynthia Popalis, MD, MSc, FRCPC
Pediatric Gastroenterologist