

Reconstructing Accessibility: the Implications of Universal Design for Student Affairs Practices

accessibility - the ability for everyone, regardless of disability or special needs, to access, use and benefit from everything within their environment

disability - a cognitive, developmental, intellectual, mental, physical, sensory, condition, or combination of these that typically inhibits interaction with environments or systems

ableism - conscious or unconscious discrimination in favor of able-bodied people

DESCRIBE YOUR PROGRAM

PRINCIPLES OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN

1. Equitable use
2. Flexibility in use
3. Simple & intuitive use
4. Perceptible information
5. Tolerance for error
6. Low physical effort
7. Size and space for approach and use

WHAT IDEAS DO YOU HAVE TO MAKE YOUR PROGRAM MORE ACCESSIBLE?

DO YOU PROVIDE...

- Text descriptions of flyers
 - Audio descriptions for movies
 - A mix of loud, vibrant programs and small, quieter programs
 - Fonts easily read by people with dyslexia (Arial or OpenDyslexic)
- Materials with large text
 - Multiple sessions
 - Multiple options for participants with food allergies or preferences
 - Accessible, gender-inclusive restrooms
 - Education for your staff & coworkers about how to serve students with disabilities

IS YOUR EVENT ACCESSIBLE TO SOMEONE...

- With chronic pain?
- Who uses a mobility aid?
- With low vision?
- Accompanied by an assistance dog?
- With an auditory disability?
- Who else could you think of?

EXAMPLES

Equitable use

Materials are offered in large print, and images are included with descriptions.

Flexibility in use

Students can choose to participate in a loud/flashy part of the program or a quieter room with similar activities.

Simple & Intuitive

Minimize the use of jargon or acronyms in speech and text.

Perceptible information

Information is provided via multiple platforms (audio, e-mail, presentation)

Tolerance for error

Rolling deadlines.

Low physical effort

In planning, ensure there are always alternatives (campus tours that can be given on golf-cart)

Size and space for approach and use

How is seating arranged? Are students given choices? Is the venue accessible by elevator?

RESOURCES

Office of Accessibility Services

(678) 839-6428

counseling@westga.edu

Report Barriers to Access

Contact Facilities

(678) 839-6277

Contact University Police

(678) 839-6000

Form link:

<https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/barriers-to-access-reporting-form.php>

Colleagues and Coworkers

Talk over your programs, initiatives, policies, and day-to-day operations with your colleagues to see how you can make your work more accessible to all students.

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