

# Promoting Inclusive & Accessible Learning Environments at MSU

An introduction to accessibility services and resources at MSU

## Accessibility by the Numbers

- In the US 19.4% of undergraduate and 11.9% of postbaccalaureate students report having a disability
- Underreporting of disabilities at universities is not unusual due to fear of judgment, bias, and skewed perception of ability.
- Approximately 6% (3,100) of MSU students registered for official disability related accommodations in spring of 2022.
- You likely have students with disabilities in your classes even if you don't receive official requests for accommodation.

## Creating a Welcoming Environment

- Creating content with usability and accessibility in mind is key to a well designed course.
- Including an accessibility statement in your syllabus can help alleviate student concerns around disabilities and accommodation requests.
- Leveraging campus resources can help both you and your students.

## Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD)

Spartans lead in ways practical and profound. We create opportunity through study and research, developing solutions for some of the world's most challenging needs. Education expands opportunity and for those experiencing disabilities, education is a most empowering choice. This is why Team RCPD works diligently to engage MSU traditions of quality, inclusiveness, and connectivity for the benefit of all.

## RCPD Helps:

- Provide reasonable accommodations to students and employees who have been formally identified as having a disability.
- Ensure individuals with disabilities have access to activities and services offered by MSU.

## RCPD - Official Disability Accommodation Requests

- **VISA** - Verified Individualized Services and Accommodations
- **VISTA** - Verified Individualized Services and Temporary Adjustments

MSU's official documentation that:

- Verifies the presence of a student's disability
- Describes essential disability-related accommodations and services
- Provides introductory content about the RCPD and disabilities in general

## Receiving New Student VISAs

- Official VISAs and VISTAs are issued through the RCPD
- It is important to note that students may provide instructors with a VISA at any time.
- Accommodations are not retroactive.
- Students are responsible for communicating accommodation needs.
- Students retain responsibility for initiating contact with faculty.



## Common VISA Accommodations

- Captions and/or Transcripts for Video and Audio Content
- Extending Test/Quiz Time
- Readers for Exams
- Note Taking Assistance for lectures and classes
- Attendance Flexibility
- Alternative Formats for Course Content

[Learn more about student VISAs](#)



## MSU IT, Educational Technology - Instructional Technology and Development Team

Helping faculty and staff create great digital experiences that are accessible for everyone.



## Benefits of Building with Accessibility in Mind

- A proactive vs. reactive approach reduces the risk of having to provide accommodations in a shortened timeframe.
- Reduces reliance on official accommodation requests (VISA/VISTA).
- Reduces digital barriers and improves the class experience for all students.

## Accessible Technologies at MSU

- Spartan Ally
  - D2L integration that automatically scans course content for common accessibility issues and provides feedback for planning and remediation.
- EquatIO
  - STEM tool for creating accessible equations and formulas.
- Read&Write
  - A literacy support tool that offers help with everyday tasks like reading text out loud, understanding unfamiliar words, researching assignments, and proofing written work.

## MSU Core Technologies - Accessibility Features

- Microsoft Office
  - Built-in accessibility checkers.
  - Live captioning (Teams & PowerPoint) & machine captions (Stream)
- Zoom – live captioning and transcripts
- MediaSpace – machine and professional captioning/transcripts

## Accessible Content Works for Everyone

### Survey Data from MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine

- For Class of 2024 83% of students used captions when watching lab and lecture videos.
- When asked why:
  - 32% - it helped them focus.
  - 31% - to help with comprehension during video playback at higher speeds.
  - 27% - helped with language, vocabulary, and audio related issues.

# Accessibility Services



**Review** before you  
buy Procurement

"I want to buy\_\_\_"



**Creative  
Design/Production**

"I want to build\_\_\_"



**Accessibility Review:**  
Digital "things"

"I want to make sure this \_\_\_ is  
accessible..."



## WebAccess Resources

- [WebAccess Website](#)
- [Basic Accessibility Checklist](#)
- [Accessibility Tutorials](#)
- [Guideline for Captioning Videos](#)
- [Web Accessibility Policy Liaisons](#) - listed by unit
- [Accessibility Contacts](#)

## MSU Libraries

The MSU Libraries are committed to providing equal access to library collections, services, and facilities for all library users. It is a priority for the MSU Libraries to select and acquire, whenever possible, resources and technologies that are accessible to all and compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. For library collections that aren't accessible, we are committed to providing reasonable accommodations and timely access to users with disabilities.

[Learn more about accessibility services at the Library](#)



# MSU Web Accessibility Policy

## Article II. Scope

This policy applies to all University Web pages used to conduct core university business or academic activities. This policy does not apply to Web pages published by students, employees, or non-university organizations that are hosted by the University but are not used to conduct core University business or academic activities.

[More about MSU Web Accessibility Policy](#)