Promoting Inclusive and Accessible Learning Environments

Angela Sebald - Media Access Specialist, RCPD
Nate Evans - Manager, MSU IT | Digital Content & Accessibility
Agenda

1. Digital Accessibility at MSU
2. Introduction the the RCPD
3. Receiving a VISA, “What should I say?”
4. Syllabus Language
5. VISA Case Studies
6. Accessibility quick tips (Nate)
#NextLevel
Campus Technology recently rated MSU in the top 10 online higher education institutions based on accessibility and willingness to accommodate students with disabilities.

10 Best Online Schools and Resources for Students with Disabilities

A new guide from OnlineSchoolsCenter ranks the top 10 disability-friendly schools and offers guidance to students with disabilities.

8. University of Illinois;

9. University of Southern Illinois; and

10. Michigan State University.
Recent Accomplishments

- 2,176 students and employees with permanent disabilities are registered with the RCPD and supported at MSU (5.8% increase from last year).

- Over the past year, high-level accessibility training was provided to nearly 500 faculty, graduate assistants, and teaching assistants by DCAT, with many units doing their own additional training.

- This year, four times more courses were made more accessible through our partnerships proactively, rather than through accommodation requests, totaling almost 250, through Closed Captioning and document remediation.

- Almost 200 people attended the two-day MSU 2017 Accessible Learning Conference, led by the College of Arts & Letters.
Accessibility is our responsibility.

MSU is committed to providing accessible digital experiences for everyone.
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.
EIT Purchasing Process

Those at Michigan State University involved in purchasing Electronic Information Technology (EIT) for the university should consider the accessibility of such products or services. Units should understand the impact that EIT purchasing and decision-making has on individuals with disabilities in and outside the university.
webaccess.msu.edu
Introduction to the RCPD

- Provide *reasonable* accommodations to students and employees who are *qualified* individuals with disabilities
- Ensure individuals with disabilities have access to activities and services offered by MSU
- Provide resources and support to faculty and staff
- Ensure discrimination is not tolerated against an individual based on his/her disability
Reasonable Accommodation Policy

-RCPD Specialist will review documentation.
-If documentation validates a disability, RCPD Specialist will determine which accommodations are reasonable and appropriate.
The VISA (Verified Individualized Services and Accommodations)

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 a VISA

- Students are responsible for discussing accommodations needs.
- Students retain responsibility for initiating contact with faculty
- Best Practice Sheet
VERIFIED INDIVIDUALIZED SERVICES AND ACCOMMODATIONS (VISA)

VISA Reference Number: 12345678-123456
Student: Joseph Sparty (A12345****)

VISA Created On: 08/11/2016
VISA Valid Through: 12/21/2016
E-mail: spartyj@msu.edu
RCPPD Disability Specialist(s): Angela Sebald (sebaldan@rcpd.msu.edu)

The student named on this VISA form has undergone a needs assessment with the RCPPD Disability Specialist(s) named above and was determined to have a disability requiring academic accommodations or services as listed. The services and accommodations were carefully weighed and determined after a thorough review of medical and other relevant documentation. Revisions to this VISA may occur by RCPPD Disability Specialists pending additional information, changes in disability status, unique academic settings, or by periodic review. You may contact the Disability Specialist named above with questions or concerns regarding the provision of accommodations and services or visit the RCPPD website. Information about disabilities and related services/accommodations should be treated confidentially by university faculty and staff. Faculty must strictly adhere to the services and accommodations listed below with modifications made only after consultation with an RCPPD Disability Specialist named on this form.

**Reading**
- RPB&D Certified
- Bookshare Certified
- E-text Eligible
- Large Print Eligible

**Testing (Ideally administered in or near the classroom under faculty supervision)**
- 90% Extended Test Time for in-class and online exams excluding take-home and clinically-based health sciences exams which require advance planning and special consideration.
- Scribe Eligible
- Separate Testing Room Eligible

**Classroom**
- Preferential Seating
- Student May Audio Record Lectures
- Access to electronic versions of overhead presentation materials
- Modify/adapt/describe visual aspects of course materials (diagrams/images)
- Faculty facilitated notetaking assistance by shared lecture notes or established partnership between students
- Disability may require departure from class without penalty. If use of this accommodation becomes excessive or affects course integrity, please contact the student and specialist
- In rare circumstances, student may need extended time for assignments. Student will contact professor if needed to request an alternate deadline. If use of this accommodation becomes excessive or affects course integrity, please contact the student and specialist

**Mobility Aids**
- Crutch/Cane/Brace
- ADA Paratransit Eligible
- Campus Orientation
Case 1: Student requesting to take exam with extended time

a. Open classroom
b. Conference room
c. Departmental office
d. RCPD
e. All of the above
Case 2: How many classes can students miss?

a. Our policy states that two classes are allowed to be missed and we must stick with that.
b. Sure, you can miss as many classes as necessary.
c. It depends on the nature of my course.
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The "Basic Checklist: Online Content Accessibility" with more details is at [webaccess.msu.edu/basiclist](http://webaccess.msu.edu/basiclist).
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Week 1 Introduction

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Search: Webaccess & RCPD MSU
Thank you!