

Planning Accessible Science Lab Sessions

Use this checklist to help guide you and your teaching team in planning science lab sessions that are accessible to all students.

Lab Accommodation

Accessibility Considerations	Yes	No	NA	Details/Notes
A person within the teaching team has been assigned to coordinate and follow-up on accessibility requirements for students.				
An accessible process is in place to gather individual student accommodation requests.				
Sufficient time is available to meet individual requests for accommodations.				
Any interactive or demonstration activities have been planned to accommodate the participation of all students, with different learning styles.				
Attendant care services will be made available upon request.				

Academic Requirements

Accessibility Considerations	Yes	No	NA	Details/Notes
Essential criteria are carefully considered before the start of the course should an accommodation be required (could an essential task be accomplished in a different way, without compromising the program requirements?)				
Course materials include an accessibility statement and contact information for a person designated to address lab accessibility				

To be fully accessible, a course syllabus must also meet the following criteria:

Criterion	Yes	No	NA	Details/Notes
Well-organized				
Presented sequentially				
Clearly outlines course expectations				
Provides deadlines				
Lists all required readings				
Course work and grading with deadlines				

Laboratory Safety

Accessibility Considerations	Yes	No	NA	Details/Notes
The safety plan in the event of an emergency considers students with disabilities requiring assistance and ensures that all staff responsible for executing the plan (such as lab coordinators and TAs) are clear about their responsibilities and the location of safety equipment (first aid kit, eyewash station, shower, etc.).				
Determination of the most efficacious way a service animal can function in the lab (for example, is there a health or safety risk to the service animal entering the lab, the student with a disability or other students?).				
Safety signs are properly posted throughout the lab.				

Information, Communication, and Alternative Formats

The goal for the items in this section is to ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to the information being presented to their classmates. The precise form of information transfer is dependent upon the student and their accommodation needs. As a universal best practice, as computer technology in the lab setting is upgraded on an ongoing basis, it should be replaced with full accessible platforms to further enhance the culture of accessibility in the lab setting.

Accessibility Considerations	Yes	No	NA	Details/Notes
The course website has been tested to ensure that it is accessible to				

visitors with disabilities (speech, magnification, etc.).				
Any materials such as handouts will be available in alternate formats such as large print, electronic or in Braille, upon request.				
Closed-captioning is available for any video or television-based portion of the lab session.				
Descriptive video is available for any video or television-based portion of the lab session.				
Sign-language and/or other interpretation services will be made available upon request.				
Computers that will be used by students with disabilities are fully accessible to them (such as speech, magnification, accessible mouse/keyboard, as appropriate).				

Laboratory Environment

Accessibility Considerations	Yes	No	NA	Details/Notes
If the transportation is provided to/from the lab, it should be accessible to all students. If not, alternate arrangements should be made.				
The building in which the lab is located is accessible (see Physical Accessibility Checklist).				
Where necessary, there is reserved seating.				
The layout of the lab is free from obstructions to allow safe mobility between aisles, to entrances and exits, and to the safety features.				
The washrooms in the building are accessible and in proximity to the lab.				
This is a scent-free lab.				

Regulations/Instructions

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