

Strategies to Address College Barriers

Lecture

Possible Access Issue

- Student has trouble following class discussion

Alternate Strategy

- Make course and class outlines available ahead of time by putting them on reserve in the library or posting them on the web to allow time for preparation and review
- Instructor stops periodically and checks on the class's retention of the material
- Review questions are provided at the end of each class to reflect on the discussion
- Discussion groups are formed for review purposes

Possible Access Issue

- Student has trouble taking notes

Alternate Strategy

- Instructor makes their class notes available online as part of the course structure
- Instructor has different students taking notes for each class and notes are distributed class wide or made available online
- Instructor distributes note taking templates with prompts for information discussed in class, including PowerPoint presentation notes
- Use of a portable word processor (i.e., Alphasmart or QuickPad Pro)
- Use of note taker
- The classes are video or audio taped and the tapes are made available after class
- The instructor uses Mimio or Smartboard to record their voice and notes on the whiteboard in real time

Possible Access Issue

- Student has trouble following themes and conversations for extended periods

Alternate Strategy

- Break lecture into smaller blocks with regular group activities and project based assignments
- Use different medias of presentation to break up the lecture(e.g., video, guest lectures, graphic models, hands-on-experience)

- Groups of students, rather than instructor, present material otherwise covered in lecture
- Provide students with an outline of the themes and conversations to be covered in the class

Possible Access Issue

- Student has trouble processing auditory information

Alternate Strategy

- Instructor to incorporate charts, diagrams or graphic representations of course material to augment lecturing
- Tape recording class
- Copy of class notes
- Instructor uses mimio and makes the class notes available to students after the class

Handouts

Possible Access Issue

- Student has trouble reading printed material

Alternate Strategy

- Printed materials available electronically can be accessed using screen readers
- Concepts should be displayed graphically to reduce the amount of text in a class

Possible Access Issue

- Screen readers may not work well with maps and diagrams

Alternate Strategy

- Maps and diagrams should include alternate, descriptive text where appropriate

Possible Access Issue

- Student lost or forgot handout or was not in class when it was distributed

Alternate Strategy

- Student can download another copy from the class web site or get a copy from another student
- A student can contact the instructor directly

Video and PowerPoint Presentations

Possible Access Issue

- Student cannot hear audio with presentation

Alternate Strategy

- Show presentation with captioning "on"

Possible Access Issue

- Students cannot follow the main point of the presentation

Alternate Strategy

- Give students themes or questions to focus their attention during presentation
- The instructor discusses the purpose of the presentation ahead of time and at the end of the presentation for review
- The instructor stops the presentation to discuss the points made so far

Possible Access Issue

- Students may miss or forget presentation

Alternate Strategy

- Make presentation available for student to view, or review, independently, outside of class
- Build upon presentation in subsequent class activities to summarize and repeat main points

Possible Access Issue

- Student may not intuitively tie video content to rest of course

Alternate Strategy

- Make links between video and class explicit, before and after viewing (use a concept map)

Reading and Writing

Possible Access Issue

- Student has trouble accessing traditional printed material

Alternate Strategy

- Screen readers allow alternate access to printed materials
- Many college texts are available as books-on-tape or in video format
- Use graphic organizing software to depict the same information in a different format

Possible Access Issue

- Student has trouble outputting language or writing essay papers

Alternate Strategy

- Give students options to demonstrate what they've learned, including writing by hand, speaking to computer (via voice recognition software) or scribe, typing, or conveying information using graphics, skits, photo journals and videos
- Provide all students with a rubric of what constitutes an "A" paper and what doesn't - give examples of previous student work

Possible Access Issue

- Students read, process or write slowly

Alternate Strategy

- Materials are available to students as needed or ahead of schedule to allow students to work at individual pace
- The instructor gives the students options to demonstrate their knowledge in alternative formats
- The course materials are available in alternative formats (digital, audio and video versions)

Assessment and Testing

Possible Access Issue

- Work reflects student's ability to complete type of assessment rather than knowledge of actual course content

Alternate Strategy

- Allow students choice between different modes (i.e., essay, presentation, photo essays, Inspiration, PowerPoint, etc.) to demonstrate knowledge
- Use of portfolio based assessment

Possible Access Issue

- Student has trouble meeting deadlines of large projects

Alternate Strategy

- Break the larger project into multiple smaller assignments with deadlines
- Instructor allows the student to hand-in drafts of work to incorporate that feedback into the final assignment
- Students work in groups and the group is responsible for the final deadline
- The instructor gives the students in-class time to work on the assignment

Laboratory Work

Possible Access Issue

- Students have trouble following experimental step

Alternate Strategy

- Handouts of directions include pictures taken with a digital camera along with text to identify steps in the process
- Instructor models the lab activities prior to students conducting experiment on their own

Possible Access Issue

- Students have trouble simultaneously conducting experiment and recording data

Alternate Strategy

- Students work with partners and divide labor
- Instructor allows alternate forms of recording observations, including using pictures, video and/or audio recordings as part of the lab report

Possible Access Issue

- There are physical barriers to the lab

Alternate Strategy

- At least one lab station is fully accessible in terms of height and width for a wheel chair, materials are labeled in Braille, etc...

Internships/Practica

Possible Access Issue

- Time requirements may be too demanding for some students

Alternate Strategy

- Hours may be completed in shorter blocks over an extended period of time
- Part of the internship/practica may be completed virtually through on-line discussion groups, video conferencing and chat rooms

Possible Access Issue

- Students may not be able to document practicum in traditional written notes

Alternate Strategy

- Instructor allows students to use different modes, including electronic audio (with use of a digital voice recorder), camera and video, to document practicum

Office Hours

Possible Access Issue

- Office is not fully accessible

Alternate Strategy

- Office hours held in accessible location or on-line through e-mail, chat rooms and video conferencing

Possible Access Issue

- Office hours conflict with other student obligations

Alternate Strategy

- Instructor is available by phone, email and through course web site

Source:

http://www.education.umd.edu/oco/training/oco_training_modules/IndividualSupports/strategies.html