Designing for Accessible Learning

Accessibility vs. Accommodation

*Accessible* means that individuals with disabilities are able to independently acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same services within the same time frame as individuals without disabilities, with substantially equivalent ease of use.

*Accommodations* are reasonable academic adjustments or auxiliary aids that provide equal access to programs and services on an individual basis.

ADA at the University of Memphis

On September 15, 2010, The Department of Justice published revised final regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for public colleges and universities. In this Act, the ADA requires institutions like UofM that serve the public communicate effectively with people who have communication disabilities. The goal is to ensure that communication with people with these disabilities is equally effective as communication with people without disabilities.

A full review of the ADA and its requirements can be found at http://www.ada.gov/effective-comm.htm (Link opens in a new window)

Universal Design for Learning and Accessibility

UDL is a set of principles for curriculum development that give all individuals equal opportunities to learn. It provides a blueprint for creating instructional goals, methods, materials, and assessments that work for everyone. To learn more about Universal Design for Learning, visit UDLonCampus.cast.org.

About the Event

On Thursday, November 12th, a panel of faculty and staff discussed accessibility issues, universal design, and the needs of students with disabilities.

A Special Thank You to Our Panel Members!

Jennifer Murchison, Disability Resources for Students
Matthew Parris, Department of Biology
Sandy Schaeffer, Fogelman College of Business
Amanda Lee Savage, Department of History