**Accessible and Inclusive Education at UBC**

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**Accessibility at UBC**

This poster presents What, Why and How of Accessible Education at UBC. The “How” section explores Accessibility at UBC through three lenses – design, affordability, and support.

**What is Accessibility?**

Accessibility is the ability to access something. In education, it is the process of designing courses/programs and developing a teaching style to meet the needs of students from all backgrounds.

**Why is Accessibility Important?**

**Statistics Canada:** One in five Canadians over 15 years old has a disability.

**Undergraduate Experience Survey 2021**

UBC Vancouver
- 4183 students currently registered with CFA
- 17% have mental health condition
- 14% have other medical conditions
- 64% are experiencing financial stress

UBC Okanagan
- 910 students registered with DRC (2021 WT2)
- 23% mental health condition
- 19% other medical condition
- 84% are experiencing financial stress

**BC Accessibility Legislation**

June 17, 2021 – BC Legislature passed the Accessible British Columbia Act into law.

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**Accessibility and Design**

- Ensure accessible learning environment
- Use a consistent structure throughout your course
- Provide flexibility through Universal Design for Learning framework
- Ensure constructive course alignment
- Build in course feedback

**Develop Accessible Content**

- Provide alternative text for your images
- Use descriptive and unique hyperlinks
- Create accessible media
- Transcribe your media
- Include an accessibility statement in your course syllabus
- Adjust font size and text contrast to optimize viewing and reading
- Use headings to identify the hierarchical structure of a document

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**Accessibility and OER**

According to the 2020 AMS Academic Experience Survey (AES) 28% of undergraduate students reported that, in the previous year, they frequently or often went without a textbook or other course resource specifically due to cost.

**Open Educational Resources (OER) are any teaching and learning materials that are made available to others to use without cost. Using OER can lower accessibility barriers, including:**

- the affordability of learning materials
- the technical format of the material,
- the bandwidth needed to connect with the resources

OER is a great strategy for accessible course content because:

- Online versions are free to students and instructors
- There’s no need to gain permission to use, copy, or distribute OER
- OER is often available in a variety of both online and offline/downloadable formats
- OER may be used, edited, or adapted without fear of copyright infringement
- Instructors can modify the content to suit student needs, teaching method, curriculum

**UBC OER Use and Support**

- In the 2020/21 academic year, an estimated 19,152 UBC students took part in 60 courses that were using open resources in place of paid textbooks.
- UBC has a variety of funding sources that support the use of OER.

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**Support Centers**

The Disability Accommodation Policy (LR7) provides guidance for UBC students, faculty, and staff to understand the process through which accommodations for students with disabilities are made at the University.

The purpose of accommodation is to create an accessible learning environment that enables all students to meet the essential requirements of UBC’s courses, programs, and activities.

UBC offices designated to assist:
- Centre for Accessibility (CFA) - Vancouver
- Disability Resource Centre (DRC) - Okanagan

**Accommodations for Students**

- Exam accommodations (e.g., extended time, distraction-reduced space, use of assistive technology, alternate-format exams)
- Instructional/classroom accommodations (e.g., captioning/transcription, note-takers, recording lectures)
- Support with housing, funding, and admission

**Support for Faculty & Staff**

Inclusive teaching & learning supports and technical support for learning technologies:
- Centre for Teaching & Learning (CTL) - UBC Okanagan
- Centre for Teaching, Learning & Technology (CTLT) - UBC Vancouver

For faculty and staff with disabilities or ongoing medical conditions, the Centre for Workplace Accessibility (CWA) provides resources, tools, & programs that help remove barriers.