

# 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.

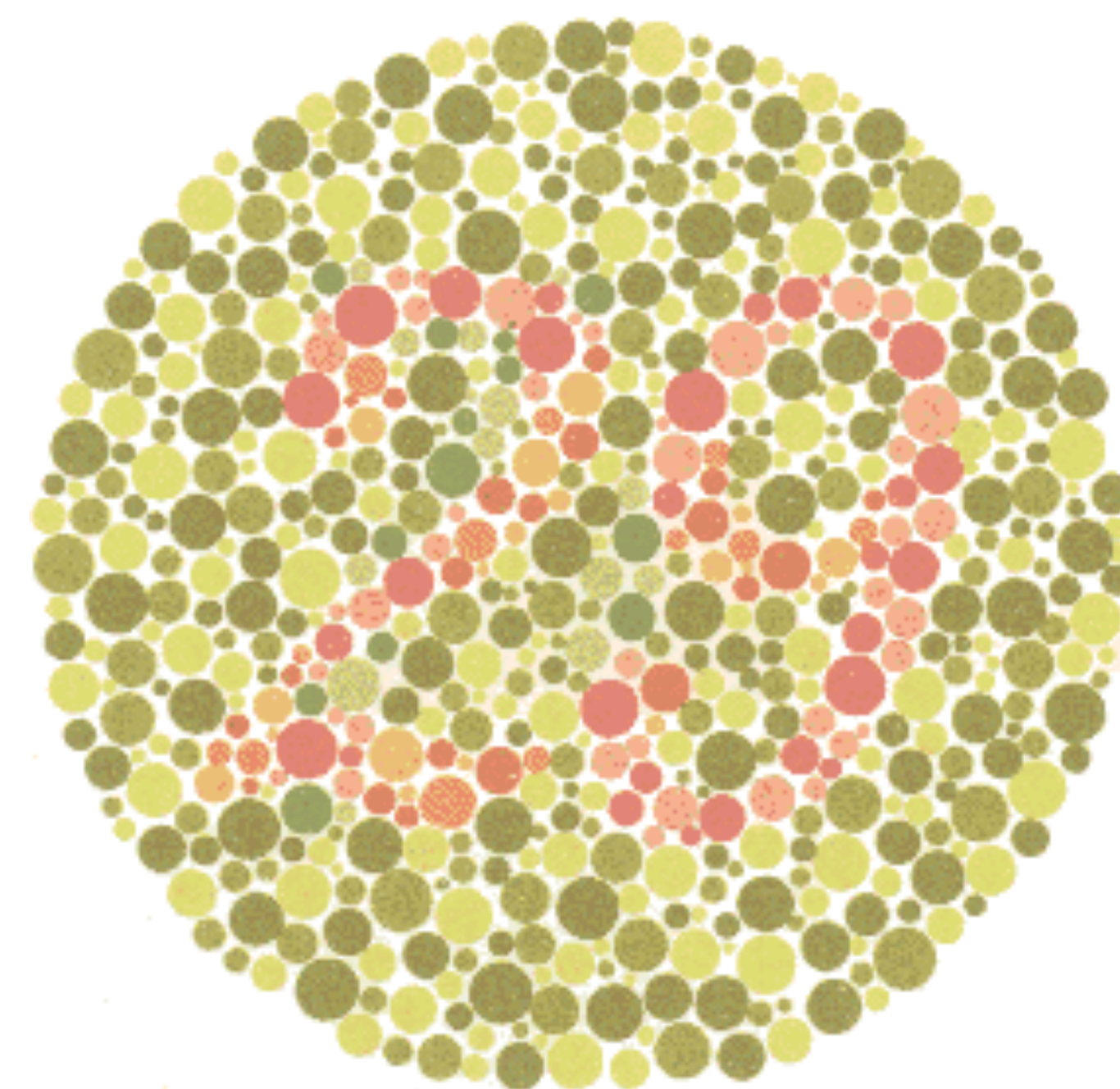
## Accessibility and Design

- 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 hierarchal structure of a document

## What Number Do You See?



## 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.

## 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.