

OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES
STRATEGIES PAGE

VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS

Students with Visual Impairments can complete academic requirements the same as any other student; however, some **strategies** may be required. The following are a few of those strategies that you, as an instructor, might consider when presenting subject matter:

- Visually impaired students may rely heavily on hearing. When writing on the board or using an overhead projector, read the displayed material aloud and describe in detail anything that is important to see.
- Make copies of overhead slides ahead of time to give to the student. They will then be able to have the material enlarged or prepared in a raised-line format and be able to follow your lecture better.
- If charts, and/or diagrams are used, please enlist the help of the Disability Services Specialist on campus who will be able to “adapt” these items for use by the student.
- Visually impaired students may rely on note-takers, scribes, readers, tape recorders and/or talking books when doing assignments. Because of this, they may need additional time to complete their work. Arrangements for this should be made early in the semester between instructors and students.
- With some exceptions, front row seating is not always necessary for visually impaired students. Usually, their vision is too poor for them to see the board even if they sit up front.
- Please allow the student to tape record your lecture if they choose to do so.
- When the student registers for your class, the textbooks needed will be ordered by the Office of Disability Services in a tape-recorded, Braille, or disk version. Please send a copy of your syllabus to Disability Services to aid in this process.
- If there are computers in the classroom, the student will be trained on how to use the screen enlargement program (Zoom Text). If a student is totally blind, he/she can be trained on the use of a character recognition program (JAWS) that will read aloud what is on the computer screen.

- In certain science lab classes, some laboratory materials will need to be changed from a visual to a tactile format. The Office of Disability Services will be happy to assist. Lab assistants may be needed for some students.
- Students who use Braille will be able to type their papers in Braille and present the papers translated to standard English.
- Try to provide concrete tactile models of abstract concepts.