SECTION 1
DESIGN GUIDELINES

PART 5
CAMPUS STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBILITY
AND INCLUSION

APPENDIX B
CAMPUS STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

1.1 OVERVIEW
A. Accessibility standards for UNC Charlotte (UNCC) are equal to, or in addition to, Federal ADA standards for Accessible Design. In some areas of design, campus standards are more stringent than ADA standards, but do not violate Federal or State standards.
B. Designing accessible spaces requires planning that considers the needs of all users who may have low vision, blindness, a temporary or permanent mobility impairment, hearing loss, medical disorder, age related limitations, or several of these concerns.
C. Utilizing the Principles of Universal Design (design that provides access to all) when pre-planning campus buildings and pathways adds little cost in the planning stage but saves significant costs of retrofitting in the future.
D. Prior to project construction completion, the Designer of Record shall initiate and complete a survey to confirm project construction meets all required ADAAG and UNC Charlotte accessibility guidelines. Designer to work with contractor and UNC Charlotte staff to ensure code compliance is met.

1.2 GENERAL CAMPUS STANDARDS
A. Common use features (such as automatic door activators, card swipes, proximity readers, elevator buttons) shall be placed a maximum of 34 to 36 inches above finished floor.
B. Do not place common use building features within 24 inches of an interior corner.
C. Space common use features a minimum of 6 to 8 inches apart from other features.
D. Common use features shall not be obstructed by trim or other building features.
E. Provide ADA compliant wheelchair accessible lab tables, lab sinks, podiums, electrical & gas connections, and ADA access to all other necessary equipment in each classroom or research laboratory.
F. Classrooms and labs with fixed tables must have at least one adjustable height table, placed in a visually unobstructed location near the front of the classroom.
G. Provide at least one accessible, “family style” or “assisted use” restroom on an egress level in newly designed or significantly renovated buildings. The door shall swing freely, with no spring hinge or hydraulic closer. Single user restrooms shall not be installed in a location requiring the entry access door to include spring hinge or hydraulic closer.
H. Provide ADA access to multiple levels of tiered classrooms and lecture halls.
I. Use ramps (not steps) to provide access for tiered feature or gathering areas.
J. Only the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA) shall be used at UNCC for signage and logos: Guidance on Use of the International Symbol of Accessibility Under the ADA and ABA
K. All door hardware used at UNC Charlotte must comply with ADAAG 309.4 Operation: Operable parts shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. The force required to activate operable parts shall be 5 pounds or less. Locking “tabs” that must be turned to engage or disengage a lock are discouraged for use.
1.3 ACCESSIBLE ROUTES AND PATHWAYS

A. The hilly topography of the UNC Charlotte campus can be difficult to mediate and creates significant challenges for people with mobility disabilities. Accessible pathways benefit the whole campus body since people read text messages, roll equipment from or to classrooms, and ride bicycles while traversing the campus.

B. Designing disability-friendly pathways requires:
   1. Accessible common campus pathways, whenever possible.
   2. Parallel accessible pathways when separate pathways are necessary.
   4. Pathways that provide excellent sight lines in all directions.
   5. Smooth, wide pathways with moderate slopes less than 5% when feasible.

C. Include in Design:
   1. Multiple, direct, accessible pathways to nearby (especially adjacent) buildings.
   2. Accessible parking on the shortest, direct accessible pathway to an accessible entrance (North Carolina Building Code);
   3. Accessible pathways to transport modes from multiple building entrances.
      a. transport modes include:
         1) accessible parking areas.
         2) shuttle stops.
         3) bicycle and walking paths from other areas of campus.
   4. Direct accessible paths to nearby specialty areas, such as outdoor picnic seating or cafeteria.

1.4 BUILDING FEATURES

A. Entrances
   1. Door closers shall not be installed on non-fire rated classroom entry doors.
   2. Door closers shall not be installed on any non-fire rated door without review and approval by the Campus ADA Project Coordinator and University Project Manager (UPM).
   3. Doors accessed via a separate card swipe and separate automatic door actuator shall have both mounted on the same side of the door and a minimum of 6 to 8 inches apart.
   4. Devices shall not be placed beneath thick, overhanging building trim.

B. Elevator buttons
   1. Avoid placing elevator buttons near the inside corners of a wall or within 24 inches of another feature, such as a water fountain, as this blocks access to both features.
   2. Place interior and exterior buttons a maximum of 34 to 36 inches above the finished floor and unobstructed by trim.

C. Interior Signage
   Signage within buildings should be:
   1. At an accessible height determined by the ADA Accessibility Guidelines, clearly marking accessible features and egress paths.
   2. Appropriately sized with large font meeting ADA guidelines.
   3. High contrast with tactile lettering and braille.
   4. Consistently placed.
   5. Emergency and directional signage must be placed at an accessible height and should be unobstructed by ancillary signage.
   6. Each door providing access to an Areas of Refuge from an adjacent floor area shall be identified by signage on both the access and interior sides stating AREA OF REFUGE and include the International Symbol of Accessibility.
   7. Each door providing access to an Exterior Area for Assisted Rescue shall be identified by signage on both the interior and exterior stating EXTERIOR AREA FOR ASSISTED RESCUE and include the International Symbol of Accessibility.

D. Classrooms, Laboratories, and Internal Spaces:
1. Fixed classroom desks should meet ADA standards for height and leg space to maximize utilization:
   a. Height: top 28 inches FFF
   b. 27 inches of knee room
2. Classrooms and labs with fixed tables should have at least one adjustable table, placed in a visually unobstructed location near the front of the classroom.
3. Podiums and smart classrooms features shall be located at least 36 inches from the wall and should be fully accessible for faculty or guests with disabilities.
4. Include wheelchair accessible seating in multiple locations.
5. When including separate tiered space, use ramps to provide inclusive access.
6. Provide wheelchair accessible lab tables, and ADA compliant access to lab sinks, podiums, electrical & gas connections, along with access to all other necessary equipment in each classroom or laboratory.
7. The minimum aisle width in classrooms is 36”.
8. The preferred minimum width for lecture hall aisles is 48”.

E. Restrooms
1. Place towel dispensers on the wall away from the sink to allow wheelchair access.
2. Avoid corner entrances to restrooms that are difficult for wheelchair users to maneuver.

F. Stairs
1. Provide visual contrast with 2” stripe on the tread of all interior and exterior stair locations on the stair tread beside the nosing. Confirm campus location to follow based on design material being provided (brick, concrete, rubber treads, etc.).

Principles of Universal Design

1.5 EQUITABLE USE:
The design does not disadvantage or stigmatize any group of users.

1.6 FLEXIBILITY IN USE:
The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.

1.7 SIMPLE, INTUITIVE USE:
Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user’s experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.

1.8 PERCEPTIBLE INFORMATION:
The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user’s sensory abilities.

1.9 TOLERANCE FOR ERROR:
The design minimizes hazards and adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.

1.10 LOW PHYSICAL EFFORT:
The design can be used efficiently and comfortably, and with a minimum of fatigue.

1.11 SIZE AND SPACE FOR APPROACH & USE:
A. Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use, regardless of the user’s body size, posture, or mobility.

1.12 WEBSITES:
http://www.ada.gov/2010ADAstandards_index.htm
https://up.codes/viewer/north_carolina/ibc-2015/chapter/11/accessibility#11