

## **ACCESSIBILITY, UNIVERSAL DESIGN**

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**Accessibility Code:** All remodeling and new construction on the University of Nebraska campus shall conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities (ADAAG) and Title 156 – Nebraska Accessibility Requirements of the Nebraska Administrative Code (NAC).

**Universal Design:** The standards given in the Nebraska Accessibility Requirements of the Nebraska Administrative Code (NAC) and ADAAG are to be recognized as being minimal standards required by law for designing facilities that are readily usable by persons with disabilities. The University of Nebraska strives to provide facilities that are universally usable by persons with diverse physiologic and sensory abilities. The design of campus facilities shall provide for full and independent use of the facility by persons with disabilities. Following are examples of universal design standards adopted by NU that exceed minimum code requirements:

1. New buildings, additions to buildings and alterations should conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities (ADAAG) and Title 156 – Nebraska Accessibility Requirements of the Nebraska Administrative Code (NAC).
2. A power-operated entry door having both arm-height (42 in. high) and foot-plate-height (6 in. high) push plate type actuator switches or a continuous vertical pushplate shall be provided at no less than one entrance, preferably the main entrance, at each new or remodeled building.
3. A standard 5' x 5' accessible toilet stall is required to accommodate side transferring. Alternative stalls (Dims) described in the codes are not acceptable. End of row accessible stall configurations are preferred.
4. All elements within a facility should be planned to minimize architectural barriers to physically challenged individuals.
5. Large facilities with public spaces such as classrooms shall be constructed with multiple elevators to ensure continuity of accessibility when elevators are out of service due to repairs.
6. When technically feasible, Areas of Rescue Assistance (ARA) shall be provided in structures undergoing major remodeling. See the document entitled *Remodeling, Special Considerations* within these *Standards*.
7. Exception to ADAAG for Ramp Slopes: Although the ADAAG permits a maximum slope of 1:12 for interior and exterior ramps, this should be viewed as the maximum allowable slope and only used where circumstances do not permit a more gentle slope. Wherever possible, the slope of interior and exterior ramps should not exceed 1:16. Exceptions to this standard must be approved by the UNL project representative.

### **Design Reviews:**

1. NU Review. Projects with a construction cost of more than \$50,000 shall be submitted for review by the NU ADA Compliance Officer.
2. NU Building Official Review. All projects shall be submitted to the NU Building Official for approval and Permit. To ensure that Code-required elements are not overlooked during the early design stages, projects should be submitted to the NU Building Official as early as possible during the design process.