

The ADA Program Criteria

Excerpt from June 11, 2001 letter written by Brian Rose, Director of Compliance and Student Policy Concerns

The funding “rules” set forth below derive from past practices and decisions of the Access Committee.

1. The Access Committee funds primarily “bricks and mortar” projects and related building improvements (e.g. signs, site plan improvements) to enhance accessibility of the various campuses generally and to respond to specific faculty, staff and student accessibility needs. For Example, renovating a bathroom in a building where a new employee with a disability will work.
2. The Access Committee does not fund projects in buildings housing auxiliary services or other self-supporting programs (e.g., student and campus centers, recreation centers, campus housing, dining halls).
3. When funding accessibility improvements to building and grounds, the Access Committee loosely utilizes the following priority system:
 - a. Priority 1: access to buildings and primary function areas of buildings
 - b. Priority 2: access to restrooms and interior path of travel
 - c. Priority 3: signs, phones, water fountains, miscellaneous improvements
4. The Access Committee will occasionally fund purchases of equipment and /or supporting software to enhance accessibility of principal university services for all or most potential uses. Examples have included the purchase of multiple “reading machines” (optical scanners) for University Libraries and the purchase of software licenses allowing the installation of specialized software at all computing labs.
5. The Access Committee will not fund purchases of equipment or auxiliary aids for the sole benefit of individual students, faculty or staff. There is a separate funding source that supports auxiliary aids for students administered through the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. The Access Committee believes that auxiliary aids for faculty and staff are properly the responsibility of the employee’s department, office or unit.
6. The Access Committee will generally not fund the acquisition of products and services that, while desirable, are not necessary to meet the University’s compliance obligation under either the ADA or other applicable law. Examples of projects considered by the Committee but not funded are:
 - a. A request to support expenses relating to a “distance learning” hook-up for a student in a traditional program who, for disability-related reasons was unable to attend classes on campus.
 - b. A request to cover expenses related to installation of phone lines to allow sick students to listen to a class via speakerphone when their condition prevents them from attending.

7. Historically, \$300,000 has been allocated to this program annually.