

01 81 20 Accessibility/Universal Design Requirements

07/13/2020

Purpose:

Rice is committed to making campus facilities accessible for people with mobility, visual, hearing and other types of disabilities. The Architect and/or Engineer shall incorporate the Rice specific requirements indicated in this standard's section into their design. The Architect and/or Engineer shall further produce project drawings/specifications in line with industry standards that are updated to reflect these Rice specific requirements.

1. Accessibility Standards

- a. The Architect shall insure designs meet, at minimum, all federal, state and local accessibility codes including the ADA and Texas Accessibility Standard.
- b. The University's approach to accessibility is to provide universal access at campus facilities, exceeding minimum code requirements.
- c. The Architect shall work with the Rice Project Manager to identify accessible routes, entrances, and other accessible features for all new buildings, remodels or renovations (including laboratories, classrooms, offices, residential, recreational, performance and other facilities) with the following goals:
 - i. Accessible paths should be inclusive for everyone;
 - ii. Accessible paths for persons with disabilities should be the same path as those without disabilities, unless there is a compelling reason why this is not possible. The University Architect and the University ADA Coordinator shall be consulted as to why a path cannot be made accessible.
 - iii. Accessible paths from University bus stops, parking lots, major pedestrian routes, and colleges shall be considered when locating accessible entrances;
 - iv. Exterior accessible pathway surfaces shall be constructed of hard materials such as exposed aggregate concrete, pervious concrete, flush unit pavers, or other material(s) as approved by the University Architect. Loose or uneven surface materials such as decomposed granite or loose-laid gravel shall not be specified for primary accessible paths, especially those associated with building entries, accessible egress routes, and/or dominant campus circulation paths.
 - v. When transitions occur at the project boundary along primary routes between hard surface exterior accessible pathways and loose or uneven surface materials, opportunities shall be examined with the University Architect for continuation of the hard surface pathway to the next logical connection point so as to develop a seamless hard-surfaced accessible network.
 - vi. The use of decomposed granite or loose-laid gravel as pathways is discouraged in all campus pathways. Where possible, existing decomposed granite or loose-laid gravel surfaces should be replaced with accessible surfaces.
 - vii. All primary building entrances shall be made accessible for all;

XX XX XX Accessibility

- viii. Auto door openers at all primary entrances shall be provided;
 - ix. Automatic sliding doors are encouraged where appropriate at primary entrances;
 - x. Chair lifts should never be specified as an accessible path;
 - xi. Classrooms shall be provided with accessible stages or teaching/presentation areas;
 - xii. Accessible egress pathways shall be reviewed with the Rice Project Manager in the predesign/design process;
 - xiii. When an accessible route is temporarily closed for construction or maintenance, the contractor should either provide an alternate accessible route, or provide signage directing people to the nearest accessible route.
- d. In renovations, the Rice Project manager shall provide the Architect with existing known accessibility deficiencies. Deficiencies shall be corrected as part of the renovation project. Examples include non-compliant bathroom issues, existing protruding objects, non-compliant drinking fountains, etc.
 - e. At least one all gender restroom shall be provided in each new building or major renovation.
 - f. The goals outlined in Section 1 of this standard should be met as a minimum, unless there is a compelling reason why this is not possible. The University Architect and the University ADA Coordinator shall be consulted as to why a specific feature cannot be made accessible, or a goal of this standard cannot be met.

2. PreDesign/Design Phase Meetings

- a. The Architect shall work with the Rice Project Manager to establish at least one predesign phase and one design phase review of proposed accessible entrances, pathways and other accessible building features, including egress paths. The Rice Project Manager shall include the University ADA Coordinator, the University Architect, and other appropriate stakeholders in the review process.