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Construction Accessibility Standards

Northeastern University Guidelines for Capital Project Design & Implementation

3.0 ACCESSIBILITY DESIGN STANDARDS

3.1 UNIVERSITY GOALS

All exterior and interior spaces will be designed in accordance with the most current guidelines of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board Rules and Regulations (521 CMR), (or applicable state authority for campuses outside of Massachusetts), and the local zoning codes.

3.2 REPRESENTATIVE CODES

Conform to ADA standards for Accessible Design, ANSI, and 521 CMR.

3.3 ENGAGE WITH CAMPUS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Campus Planning and Development has gathered data on accessibility barriers in many campus locations and is developing a plan for barrier removal. At the start of a project, please coordinate with Campus Planning to understand the accessibility plan for your project area or the vicinity.

3.4 AVOID COMMON DESIGN ERRORS

To ensure that the constructed space meets all applicable codes, designers are advised to build minor tolerances for accessibility requirements into the design document. For example, do not design to the maximum height defined in the code, but design to half an inch below the maximum height.

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