

EDUCATIONAL ACCESSIBILITY AT UARTS

The Office of Educational Accessibility (OEA) at University of the Arts works with a diverse population of student learners and promotes inclusion in all areas of university life. OEA provides support and accommodations for students with disabilities, but also provides outreach across campus to promote educational access. Providing inclusive strategies for reaching students with disabilities benefits *all* students. Here are some basic tips to incorporate in your learning environment.

STRATEGIES FOR CREATING AN INCLUSIVE CLASSROOM

Provide clear, explicit instructions and objectives

- Start each class with an overview of the day's objectives
- Provide clear written and possibly audio explanations of course assignments
- Provide instructions verbally and in writing

Address essential course components

- Discuss the purpose of the course, expectations, and what students should hope to learn

Create a welcoming and respectful learning environment

- Collect information about students via a student information sheet or interest inventory
- Learn students' names and pronouns
- Develop classroom expectations with student input
- Develop course objectives and assessment activities with student input
- Compliment student effort and participation
- Encourage questions in multiple formats
- Create opportunities for students to collaborate in partners/dyads and larger groups
- Create icebreaker or introductory exercises that encourage humor and collegiality

Provide constructive feedback – feedback early and often

- Provide pre-assessment to determine students' starting point
- Incorporate peer evaluation
- Provide ideas for supplemental ways to access course instruction
(tutoring, when applicable; online tutorials)
- Ask students to do a one-minute paper at the end of class to outline what they learned
- Provide students with check-ins about their work

Provide natural supports (including technology) for learning

- Be available and provide opportunities for questions in class and outside of class
- Ensure that all field trips and educational opportunities are accessible for all students
- Allow ample time for processing information in class before moving to the next topic
- Allow ample time for exams and assignments
- Create accessible PDF documents and provide text in both digital and print formats
- Use discussion boards, email, social networking sites to keep students informed

For more information about educational accessibility, please contact access@uarts.edu.