

3.6 ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

3.6.1 BARRIER FREE DESIGN

3.6.1.1 General

References:

- [CPSM](http://dgs.virginia.gov/DivisionofEngineeringandBuildings/BCOM/CPSM/tabid/402/Default.aspx): <http://dgs.virginia.gov/DivisionofEngineeringandBuildings/BCOM/CPSM/tabid/402/Default.aspx>
- Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (VUSBC), Chapter 11
- Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, and supporting Regulations
- [Proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way](http://www.access-board.gov/prowac/nprm.htm), July 26, 2011, US Access Board: <http://www.access-board.gov/prowac/nprm.htm>
- [2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design](http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADASTandards/2010ADASTandards.htm): <http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADASTandards/2010ADASTandards.htm>

The following section includes guidelines for accessibility throughout all Mason campuses.

- New construction and renovations shall be in compliance with the current version of the CPSM. In addition to the referenced standards within the CPSM, compliance is required with the following codes, regulations and standards listed above. In addition, any standard in 3.5.1 of the Design Manual that is more stringent (i.e., more favorable to persons with a disability) than a mandate in the code shall be followed.
- Facilities must be accessible at the completion of construction. Adaptable facilities do not meet the Mason's requirements for accessibility unless they are proven to the Mason Office of Equity and Diversity Services to be made immediately accessible on demand.
- Accessibility must be integrated into the design of new and renovated facilities, rather than applied as an afterthought. Where possible, accessibility features should be architecturally inconspicuous. For example, rather than providing stairs at the main entrance and a ramp at a secondary entrance, the main entrance should be fully accessible.
- For accessibility guidelines related to specific space types (classrooms, toilet rooms, etc.), refer to Sections 3.2.1 through 3.2.15 in the Design Manual.

3.6.1.2 Circulation

3.6.1.2.1 Walkways

Pedestrian networks throughout the campus must be capable of conveying persons of all ability levels between desired destinations. While every segment of every path need not be accessible, each corridor must provide a continuously accessible route. All accessible routes must meet ADA standards. A map of accessible routes on the Fairfax Campus can be obtained from the university.

The guidelines in this section must be followed in the design of accessible pedestrian pathways:

- A maximum 2% cross slope shall be designed on all walkways. All walkway designs must include sufficient spot elevations to ensure positive drainage away from walkways, paths and curb ramps.
- A chain barrier is required where any walkway ends at a roadway where a crosswalk is not provided. Chain barriers may be in combination with railings and should guide pedestrians to a safe crossing area of that roadway.
- Provide edge protection on accessible paths when downward slope of adjacent grade exceeds 4:1. Refer to Part 5 – Standard Details. Mason to review on a case-by-case basis.
- Path barriers must be 42” high.

3.6.1.2.2 Stairs

- Contrasted nosing is required for stairs.
- All stairs shall have handrails on both sides.
- The Architect is responsible for designing accessible connections between new and existing buildings; stairs should be avoided when possible.
- Steps with a single riser are prohibited.

3.6.1.2.3 Ramps

- Exterior walkways shall not have a slope greater than 1:20 in the direction of travel. If this is not possible due to site topography, a ramp may be provided.
- Use ramps only when necessary. Refer to detail [3.5-1](#) for ADA handrail and ramp details.
- Refer to details [3.5-3](#) Ramps at Mid-Block Crossing, [3.5-4](#) Ramps at Corner Crossing, [3.5-5](#) Ramps with Flared Sides, and [3.5-6](#) Ramps at Grade Breaks.

3.6.1.2.4 Crosswalks

- Locate curb cuts at the end of each curb return, rather than in the middle of the return.
- Diagonal curb cuts at intersections are prohibited.
- Curb cuts shall be painted red and shall have detectable warnings covering the lower 2'-0" of the ramp measuring from the street, extending the entire width of the transition. Detectable warning strips shall be perpendicular to the path of travel.
- If a curb cut is present on one side of the street, there shall be a responding curb cut on the opposite side of the street.
- Where feasible, orthogonal pedestrian crossings are preferred.
- Alternate style for curbless transitions/areas that are not crosswalks (i.e. circulator shuttle stop near Starbucks, front of Research Hall).

3.6.1.2.5 Parking

- Provide required accessible parking within 250' of the primary entrance. The number of accessible parking spaces to be provided for various facility types is listed below:
 - Residential Facilities
 - Assembly Building
 - Academic and Office Buildings
- With regard to special events, the following requirements apply:
 - Provide signage to designate additional ADA parking (beyond the required number of reserved ADA spaces) when it is needed for special events.
 - Need to provide for cross slope and stall width. This will be clarified by the university during the initial design phase.

3.6.1.3 Doors and Hardware

- All lever hardware shall have an end return.
- Power operated doors shall be hardwired. Include the location and dimensions of activators (push plates) and stub outs for power operated doors on the architectural drawings. Mount activators 36" above the grade or floor and a minimum of 48" from any portion of the door in the open position. The push plate shall be a minimum of 4-1/2" diameter and located within an appropriate proximity to the door (as approved by Mason).
- Where vestibules are provided, the power operated door must activate the doors on both sides of the vestibule. A push plate shall also be located inside the vestibule.
- Provide at least one power operated door per building at the primary entrance. If the entrance closest to accessible parking is not the primary entrance, provide an additional power operated door at that entrance.
- Provide one power operated entrance along any ADA path located near a building. Need to address the vestibule air break to accommodate those that need to be accessible.
- Provide a power operator or magnetic hold open on fire doors heavier than five pounds that are on the accessible path of travel.