Physical Access Survey for University of Minnesota-Crookston
May, 2012

This survey was completed for the Crookston Campus of the University of Minnesota in May 2012. Laurie Wilson, Director of Disability Services for UMC, led the survey tour. Its purpose was to assess the current status of physical access for people with disabilities on the Crookston Campus. The primary instrument for this survey was the 2007 Minnesota State Accessibility Code, Chapter 1341. The results are intended to assist UMC in creating a more useable physical plant for students, staff, and guests.

Dowell Hall

Restrooms
- Restrooms are not accessible. REMOVE SIGNAGE indicating accessibility and add directional signage to nearest accessible restrooms

Lab 308
- No accessible lab station. Modify one station to make it height adjustable.
- Emergency shower/eyewash pull exceeds reach range. Replace so the bottom of pull does not exceed 47” AFF.
- Power door button on only one side of door. In accordance with new UMN Standards, power door buttons should be installed on both interior and exterior of doors.
- Diagonal pipe protector under sink. It is preferable not to install diagonal board under the sinks. Use pipe wrap. This provides better knee clearance. If aesthetics demand, add cabinet doors with false toe kicks.

Lab 311
- No accessible hood.
- Accessible bench is 34” high. This may be too high for a person in a wheelchair to work comfortably.
- Emergency shower/eye wash pull exceeds reach range. Replace so the bottom of pull does not exceed 47” AFF.
- Diagonal pipe protector under sink. It is preferable not to install diagonal board under the sinks. Use pipe wrap. This provides better knee clearance. If aesthetics demand, add cabinet doors with false toe kicks.
- Fire blanket is too high, replace it under chalkboard or use alternate-style fire blanket cabinet seen in other labs, appears to be approximately 60” x 4” x 4”. Install vertically.
Corridor Between Dowell Hall and Sahlstrom Hall

Restrooms
• Ramp has no handrails. Install code-compliant handrail on both sides of ramp.

Early Childhood Building

Doors
• Power door buttons are too high. Reset to UMN Standards.
• Pressure required to open unisex restroom door exceeds code.

Evergreen Hall

Accessible Apartment
• Countertop next to oven does not meet code. Provide 30"-wide accessible countertop next to oven.
• Temperature controls at back of cooktop. Replace with side-control model.
• Refrigerator/freezer does not meet code. Provide side-by-side or bottom freezer.
• There is no place to hang towel by accessible shower. Provide towel hook by shower at a maximum height of 48" AFF.
• Height of bathroom mirrors exceeds code. Lower bathroom mirrors. If necessary relocate medicine cabinets.
• Height of temperature control exceeds code. If possible, relocate to a maximum height of 48" AFF.

Harris A. Peterson Gazebo

Seating
• No accessible-height seating. Provide bench with seating surface height between 17" to 19" AFF.

Kiehle Building

Restrooms
• Power doors at restrooms 205 and 206 would be helpful.

Auditorium 220
• Lift door to front of stage sticks.
Library

Second Floor
• Power door at one study room would be helpful.

Elevator
• Door-open time is very short. Extend to at least 7 seconds.

Sargeant Student Center

Nurse’s office
• No height-adjustable exam tables. Provide an adjustable table in one exam room.

Restrooms 205 and 206
• Feminine product dispenser exceeds accessible reach range. Lower the dispenser so that highest operable part is at a maximum height of 48" AFF.

Power Doors
• Prairie Room needs power door access. Install at vestibule entry.
• Exterior door and vestibule of Admissions Building needs power door.
• Wheelchair lift between Admissions Building and Hill Hall needs power door at both landings.

Sports Center

Restrooms
• Accessible stalls in restrooms are not code-compliant.
• No soap dispenser at accessible sink in women’s restroom. Install under electrical outlet.
• Wedge-backed mirror does not meet code. Replace with standard mirror at accessible height.

UTOC Arena Building

Front Door
• Power door bollard in front of building has a wide base. This may make it impossible for some people to access the button. Replace bollard with one that does not have a wide base.

Arena
• Small black shelf at either end of the accessible path in arena presents protruding object hazard. Fire extinguisher also presents protruding object hazard.
General Comments

- Interior ramps often lack rails. Provide code-compliant rails on either side of ramps.
- Height of power door buttons is inconsistent and often too high. Reset buttons to meet UMN Standards.
- Some “accessible” restrooms do not meet code and some buildings that are accessible have no accessible restrooms. Restrooms in most buildings lack power door access. In accordance with UMN Standards, provide power doors to at least one set of restrooms, or a unisex restroom, in each building including residential buildings.
- Buildings lack exterior signage identifying location of accessible doors.
- Protruding Object Hazards are found throughout campus. Common examples include water fountains, fire extinguishers and most wall-mounted pencil sharpeners. Provide diagram.
- Many fire alarm pulls exceed maximum reach range of 48”.
- Most buildings lack high/low water fountains.
- Most service reception counters lack accessible counter sections.

Although UMC still has a number of buildings that are physically inaccessible, I recommend that priority be given to improving accessible features in those that are currently accessible. And, while all issues listed above need to be addressed, corrections to restrooms, protruding object hazards, door hardware, exterior directional signage, safety features in labs, and fire alarm pulls should be given highest priority.

Bring public restrooms up to code for disability access. Begin with Dowell Hall. Give attention to UMN Standards for restroom power door access.

Protruding Object Hazards, as described in Minnesota State Code 1341, Section 307, are present throughout campus. This should be correctable at little or no cost.

A schedule should be developed to relocate fire alarm pulls so that the highest operable part is a maximum of 48’ AFF a reasonable period of time.

Create exterior signage directing people to accessible entrances.

The development of a funding line in the HEAPR Budget, similar to the one used at UMTC, would provide annual funding for these many small projects. The development of a schedule for correction would also provide a helpful timeline. Larger projects could be funded with their own lines in the HEAPR Budget. As inaccessible buildings are remodeled, attention will be given to meeting current access code.
Overall, UMC is potentially very accessible. Most of the corrections resulting from this survey should be readily-achievable and will serve to create a more inclusive campus.

Respectfully submitted on July 6, 2012,

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