

The best and most thorough resource:

<http://www.accessiblecampus.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/05.-Checklist-for-Making-Science-Labs-Accessible-for-Students-with-Disabilities.pdf> (developed in June 2014).

Pertinent parts of this document have been reorganized below into various categories in terms of budget, (from training staff to designing a new lab). There certainly may be instances that have been overlooked (due to my limited knowledge of the lab environment specifics). This document reduces literal and perceived barriers in order to increase representation of students with disabilities in fields that work in labs.

Training department staff, lab staff and professors:

- Ensure familiarity with use of adapted technology
- Are staff members able to respond to requests for various accommodations (adapted technology, repairs of accessible equipment, sign language interpretation)?
- Are electronic documents and websites accessible?
- Keep the layout of the lab consistent, keep floors well maintained, and keep hazards out of the way for navigating purposes.

Performing a “makeover” for a lab with a limited budget for new equipment:

- Is equipment accessible from a seated position? Can it be reached without having to reach over hazardous materials?
- Are the accessible workstations near the sink, eyewash station, and at least one fire extinguisher?
- Is there equipment to accommodate both left- and right-handed users?
- Is it possible to round the edges of workstations?
- Are aisles/spaces between workstations wide enough to allow for easy movement of people using wheelchairs, service animals or mobility aids?
- Is there large-print and Braille labelling on signs and equipment?
- Have printed material at a height where someone who is in a seated position can read it
- First aid kit – kept at a height where it is reachable by someone in a seated position, Braille labelling

When purchasing equipment and furniture for a lab:

- Is the workstation adjustable? Can it be raised and lowered, or have sections removed to accommodate mobility needs?
- Is it possible to install a sink at an adjustable workstation?
- Is there space at the workstation for various forms of assistance (assistant, service animal, large screen monitor)?
- Are the fume hoods adjustable and veering forward, rather than to the side? Do fume hoods have flexible exhaust connections?
- Does each accessible workstation also have an accessible fume hood?
- Do the sashes on the fume hoods have hand and foot controls, and proximity sensors?
- Are faucets located at a front corner of the sink, rather than at the back?

- Are faucets motion sensor-controlled?
- Are eyewash stations located as close as possible to the accessible workstations (10-20 feet from the hazardous material being used, in the case of highly corrosive materials)?
- Accessible storage: install "lazy Susan" shelves in large cabinets, U-shaped handles on drawers and cabinets
- Signage: emergency signage needs to have large print and Braille

When designing a new lab:

- Is the lab near an elevator, and are there clear paths to the lab?
- Are the doors power doors, equipped with accessible buttons?
- Are light switches, fume hoods, sinks, eyewash stations at a lower height to accommodate all users? Are the handles of these easy to manipulate?
- Is there at least one quiet area for work and/or meetings?
- The preferred width for aisles is 1830 mm/72 inches, which allows two wheelchair users to pass each other; also ensure that there is space for those with mobility devices to turn around