

Accommodations for students who are blind or have low vision

In general, students who are blind or have low vision will need access to course materials through the use of a screen reader or screen magnifier. DAS works with campus partners to obtain course readings in a format that can be read in this way. It is important to consider the format of all course materials with a lens of access for someone who is non or low-sighted.

Things to consider:

- PDF's are often not accessible for a screen reader. For instance, images would not be discernible without "alt text" being inserted.
- Transferring the pdf to a Word format for students with visual impairments will give them greater access.
- Powerpoints - Any non-text material (including images, graphs, diagrams) will not automatically be accessible. DAS will provide a student "reader" who will assist by describing verbally this content. If a powerpoint is to be shown in a Zoom lecture, it should also be uploaded to Canvas in advance so the student and reader can review before or after the lecture.
- Exams - the best format for exams is a Word document that is uploaded into Canvas.
- Videos - if shown during a Zoom lecture, videos should also be available via Canvas or emailed to the student with a visual impairment for review with a student "reader."
- Student "readers" will need to be granted access to Canvas for your course so they can work with the student with a visual impairment to review materials.