

UNIVERSAL DESIGN POLICY

This document is the parent policy for any college or divisional procedures. Questions regarding this policy are to be directed to the identified Policy Administrator.

Functional Category:	Academic
Approval Date:	March 16, 2020
Effective Date:	March 16, 2020
Policy Owner:	Chief, Customer Experience Officer
Policy Administrator:	Director, Customer Care

Objective:

NorQuest College (the college) is committed to providing access and supports to its diverse learners. Universal Design (UD) will enhance accessibility of physical spaces; Universal Design for Learning (UDL) will enhance accessibility for learning and teaching, thereby aligning with the college's mission to offer "relevant and accessible education."¹ Utilizing UD principles when planning for facility changes will increase physical accessibility for potential and current students, faculty, and staff. Utilizing UDL, which falls under UD, will inform continued review of curriculum design, faculty and staff supports, and all modes of course and program delivery. The UD policy supports and promotes diversification within the college by providing an inclusive culture to advance the development of systems and processes to meet the needs of all students.

Authority to establish this policy is derived from the [NorQuest College Board of Governor's Policy No. 5](#), which delegates authority to the President and CEO to establish policies and procedures for the college's management and operation.

Policy:

Universal Design principles, as well as Universal Design for Learning principles as outlined in the Quality Curriculum Development Framework, will be a base consideration when the college designs or redesigns new or existing physical spaces, curriculum, faculty and/or staff supports, and online course delivery.

Definitions:

Diverse Learners²: NorQuest College embraces the diversity of all learners regardless of race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, gender identity and expression, physical disability, mental disability, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, religious or political beliefs. Within NorQuest College, indigenous learning and decolonization are woven into the principles of education. Moreover, the college sees intercultural and international education as key factors in both learner and institutional success.

Universal Design Principles³

See Universal Design for Physical Space Procedure

Universal Design for Learning Principles

See Universal Design for Learning Procedure

¹ From NorQuest College's Strategic Plan (p. 10) – Imagine 2025 located at <https://www.norquest.ca/about-us/vision-mission-values.aspx>

² Adapted from NorQuest College Quality Curriculum Development Framework located at <https://libguides.norquest.ca/c.php?g=703069&p=4998153>

³ From The City of Calgary *Universal Design Handbook* (p. 7-9), located at https://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/CNS/Documents/universal_design_handbook.pdf?noredirect=1

**Related NorQuest
College Information:**

**Related External
Information:**

Next Review Date:

Revision History:

Universal Instructional Design Principles

See Universal Design for Learning Procedure

- [NorQuest Strategic Plan – Imagine 2025](#)
- [NorQuest College's Curriculum Development Framework](#)
- [Universal Design for Physical Spaces Procedure](#)
- [Universal Instruction Design Procedure](#)
- [CAST](#)
- [City of Calgary, Universal Design Handbook](#)

March 2023

May 2013: new

August 2013: updated for document links and branding

November 2014: updated for document links and standards

April 2015: reviewed as per Policy and Procedure Framework: no change

August 2019: Compliance Office template & reorganization update

March 2020: updated for document links and alignment with college standards and strategic direction.