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.

**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.” 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 Learners:** 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 Principles**

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
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

Next Review Date: March 2023

Revision History:
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.