

Universal Design versus Accommodation Approach

Pre-designing courses to be accessible
to the broadest range of abilities

VS.

Retrofitting accommodation on a case-by-case basis

Universal Design Approach

- Attempts to create a flexible design that is useable/accessible to a broad base of users/learners.

- Anticipates, in fact assumes, a diverse audience/heterogeneous group.

- Inclusive from its original design/planning.

- Members of the audience with varied needs are immediately welcomed as the environment, products, materials and program instruction are useable to a diverse group.

Accommodations Approach (Older Medical Model)

- Reworks products, materials, programs, instruction and environments to meet the unique needs of an individual.

- This method assumes a homogenous audience and awaits individual requests to adapt products, environments, materials, programs and instruction before considering these individuals.

- Assumes that it is unlikely that an audience will be diverse and its members will have varied needs.

- It requires that an exception to the usual operation or method is made for an individual.

- Not as welcoming as an environment where variety is built in (Universal Design).
