

# 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.

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

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- Inclusive from its original design/planning.

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

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## **Accommodations Approach (Older Medical Model)**

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

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

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

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

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

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