

Navigating the Digital Landscape

Accommodating Learning Disabilities in post-secondary education

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University of Missouri

Learning Objectives

1. Learn the difference between accommodations in K-12 and the college
2. Understand a student's role in the accommodations process and technology
3. Discover the software options your college provides for students with learning disabilities



Difference between K-12 verse College

K-12 Education

- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Goal = Success

Postsecondary Education

- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended)

Goal = Access



What is the Student's Role

K-12 Education

Passive role in accommodations

- School is responsible for identifying students with disabilities and providing accommodations
- Information is shared with parents/guardians

Postsecondary Education

Active role in accommodations

- Student led process
- Students are responsible for their own educational choices (including decisions to not use accommodations) and sign their own paperwork



Accommodation Process

**Student Self-Identifies with Office
(Submit Application and Documentation)**



**Meet with Disability Center staff to discuss accommodations and
determine eligibility**



**Student requests accommodations and communicates with faculty to
discuss their accommodations**



**Student follows established procedures to utilize exam, note-taking, alt
format, and other accommodations**



Documentation



Requirements will vary from institution to institution.

Consult office website for documentation guidelines, forms, and/or other information on the process

Create a file that contains the following:

- Most recent evaluation and/or diagnosis
- Most recent IEP/504 Plan
- Document accommodations not listed on the IEP/504 plan
- *This is also something students in college should do in preparation for graduate programs!!*



Types of Accommodations & Services Provided



Exams

E.g., Extended time;
Reduced distraction;
Computer for essay
exams; reader/scribe on
exams



Classroom Access

E.g., Provision to audio
record lectures; sign
language interpreting;
books in alternative
format



Housing/Dining

E.g., Single room;
private bathroom; ESAs;
allergen-free meal
options



What is NOT Considered an Accommodation



Modifications to the course

Reduction in homework assignments; alternatives to final exams; minimizing options on multiple choice exams; ability to retake exams; untimed exams



Course waivers

May receive a course substitution if not fundamental to degree program



Services of a personal nature

Tutoring/Academic Support
Personal Care Attendants
Durable medical equipment
Transportation



THOSE accommodations...

- Flexible attendance and deadlines
- Study Guides
- Rewording of exam questions/less MC answers
- Reduction of assignments
- Fill in the blank notes
- Exams over multiple days
- Teacher/counselor/therapist meetings or check ins scheduled or PRN



Tips for Students on How to Prepare for the Transition

Visit the colleges you are interested in attending

- Ask to visit their Disability Center and get information regarding their process to request accommodations
- Ask about all academic resources available
- Obtain information regarding the admissions requirements
- Choose the institution that best fits your academic interests and needs

Make yourself the expert on your disability!

- Understand your diagnosis & accommodation needs

Be an active participant in transition-related meetings



TECHNOLOGY @ MU



University of Missouri

Technology and Assistive Technology



We Remove Barriers

The ACT Center supports the University of Missouri's commitment to providing accessible programs and services for its students, departments, faculty, and staff. We partner with campus disability services to offer academic accommodations as well as assistive technology and ergonomics consultations, training, and support.



Alternative Format Consultations
For textbooks and course materials.



Adaptive Technology Consultations
Assistive technology for individual needs.



Web Accessibility Testing
For compliance to Section 508 standards.



Ergonomic Evaluations
To help eliminate injuries in the workplace.

Kurzweil 3000

Kurzweil 3000 educational software provides MU faculty, students, and staff with enhanced desktop and mobile tools for reading, writing, and studying while learning and teaching online. Go to [Kurzweil](#) to get started.

Mizzou Community: Introducing Read&Write!

TextHelp's revolutionary Read and Writing Tools are now available to you! Elevate your academic experience with features like text-to-speech, writing support, reading assistance, and more. Visit our [Read&Write webpage](#) to get started now!

Digital Accessibility

A digitally accessible campus enhances usability for all users and ensures that as broad a population as possible can access, benefit from, and contribute to our university. Explore these resources to get started:

- [Accessibility resources for instructors](#)
- [Make your digital content accessible](#)

actcenter.missouri.edu



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Communications:

Email

Microsoft Outlook and Outlook App on Mobile

Productivity Tools:

M365 and Google Suites

Zoom and Microsoft Teams

Teaching & Learning:

Canvas

Col
leg



“For people with disabilities,
digital technologies can
improve their transition,
retention and learning
independence.”

Quote by Judith Heumann



Assistive Technology Categories

Microsoft Accessibility Tools

Google Accessibility Tools

Text to Speech Tools

Note Taking Tools

Speech to Text Tools

Word Prediction



Microsoft

- Microsoft Operating System

Live Captions Voice Access
Windows Speech Rec Narrator
Zoom Magnifier

- Microsoft Suite or O365

Dictate and Transcribe	Read Aloud-Speech
Check Accessibility	Alt Text
Zoom/Magnifier	Word Prediction
Spelling and Grammer	Editor
AutoComplete	Thesaurus
Text predictions	Focus mode

- Microsoft Edge browser

Dictate Read Aloud Math Assistant
Immersive Reader and Immersive Reader for Math



Microsoft



Learning

Our applications for people living with learning disabilities can help increase focus, concentration, and understanding—and include tools to improve reading and writing skills.

[Uncover tools for learning >](#)

Accessibility Assistance

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/accessibility>



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Google Chrome Browser

TalkBack Live Caption
Zoom Use Reading Mode
Keyboard shortcuts Image Descriptions
Long Descriptions Color Enhancer

Google Mobile – Android

Voice Typing Live Caption
Live Transcribe TalkBack

Google Workspace

Google Meet Google Sheets
Google Forms Gmail
Google Docs Google Slides

Google Chromebook

All Image Descriptions ChromeVox
Select to Speak Dictation w Voice
Live Caption Font Size Customization





“By making a product more accessible for people with disabilities, we’re enabling people to learn more, to accomplish more. I feel so proud to be able to help make our products better for people so that they can do anything that they want to do in their lives.”



EVE ANDERSSON (SHE/HER)
SENIOR DIRECTOR, ACCESSIBILITY & DISABILITY INCLUSION, GOOGLE



Google Belonging

https://about.google/intl/ALL_us/belonging/



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Kurzweil 3000

Text-to-Speech

Natural Text-to-Speech voices in 13 languages and 18 additional dialects at customizable reading rates.

Markup Tools

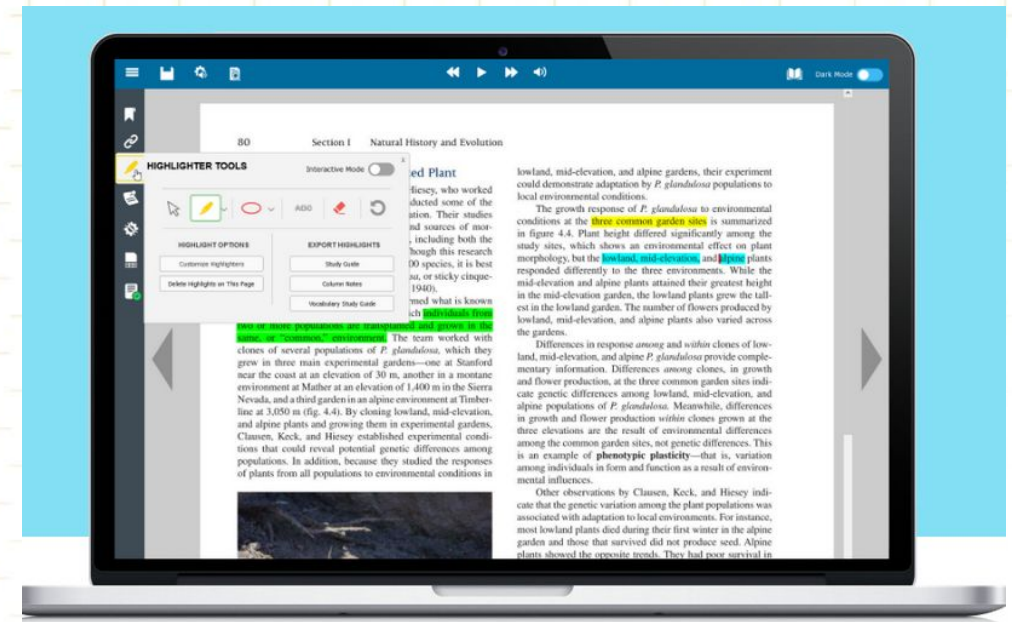
Highlight, circle and strikethrough to emphasize the critical pieces of your text.

Writing Support

Speech-to-Text supports writing and taking notes. Voice notes and dyslexic font add additional support.

Study Tools

Improve test performance with numerous study tools including column notes, annotations, dictionaries and translation.



texthelp read&write



Text-to-speech: Read what I type including individual words, passages, or whole documents aloud with easy-to-follow dual color highlighting.



Text & Picture Dictionaries: Provide definitions and display images to help with word comprehension.



Vocabulary List: Creates a list instantly into a new doc, including selected words, the dictionary definitions, images from Widgeit Symbols, and an editable notes column.



Rewordify: simplifies the readability of text without changing the meaning. (Only available for Read&Write for Google Chrome)



Check It: Reviews writing for incorrect grammar, spelling (phonetic), capitalization, punctuation, verb tense and more.



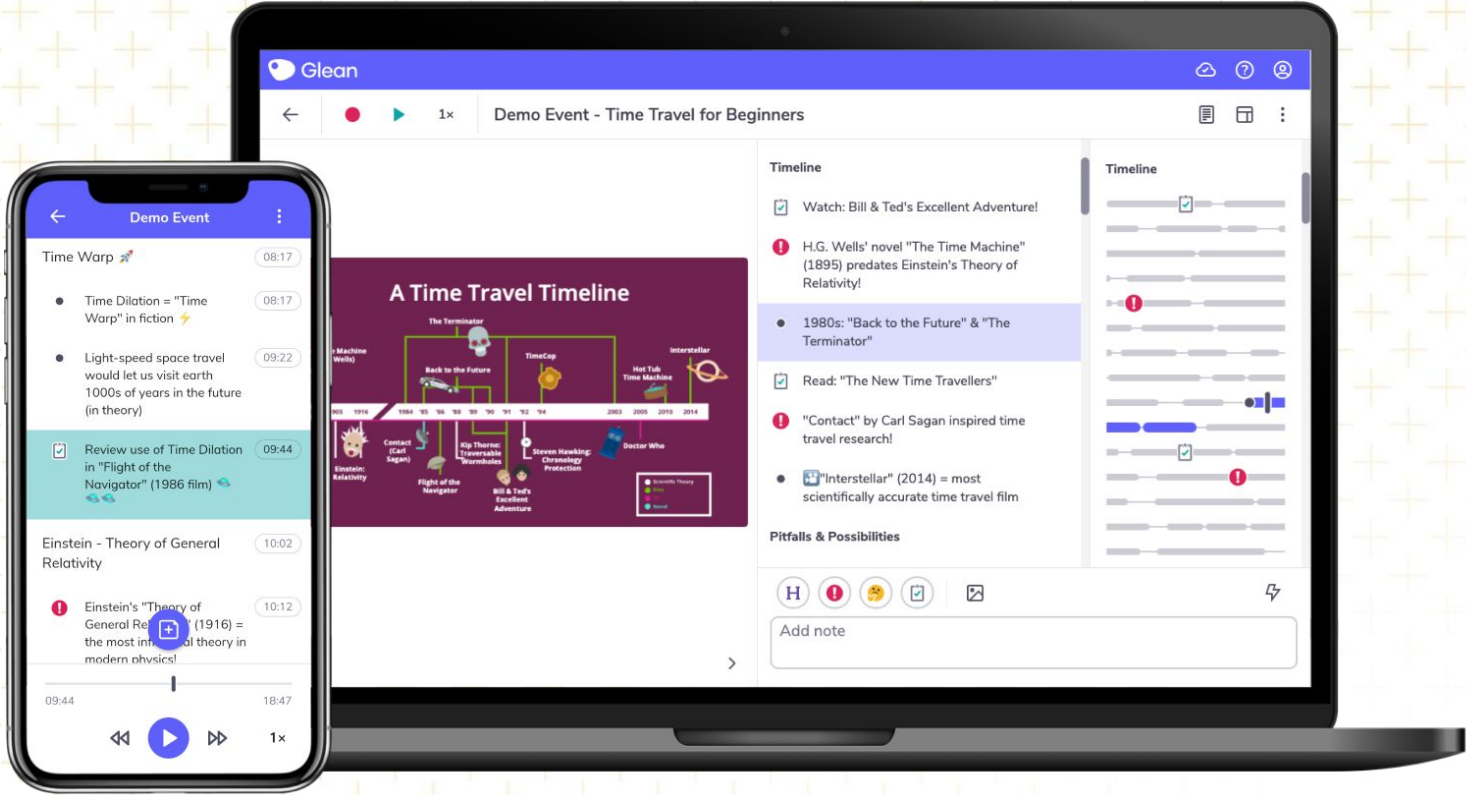
Audio Maker: Converts selected text into an audio file, and automatically downloads.



Talk&Type: Turns the spoken word into text (unavailable for **Read&Write for Mac** users).



Glean



Reader Pens



Questions?

Contact Information

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Additional Resources

The NCCSD Clearinghouse and Resource Library

<https://www.nccsdclearinghouse.org/prospective-college-students.html>

OCR – Students with Disabilities Preparing for Postsecondary Education

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html>

OCR – Dear Parent Letter

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/parent-20070316.html>

Open Letter to Parents from Jane Jarrow

<https://daisclasses.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/OpenLetterParents.pdf>



Additional Resources

Google for Education Accessibility

https://edu.google.com/intl/ALL_us/why-google/accessibility/

https://about.google/intl/ALL_us/belonging/disability-inclusion/product-accessibility/

Google Workspace Accessibility

https://edu.google.com/intl/ALL_us/why-google/accessibility/google-workspace-for-education-accessibility/

Microsoft Accessibility

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/accessibility>

Kurzweil 3000

<https://www.kurzweiledu.com/default.html>

TextHelp Read & Write

<https://support.texthelp.com/help/readwrite-7fdf2ac>

Glean

<https://glean.co/>

