

MechSE WELLness

C13 Accessibility and Universal Design

Intent: Provide a building that is accessible, comfortable, and usable by people of all backgrounds and abilities.

15% of the global population, or about 1,000,000,000 people, lives with some type of disability. The global rise in the population of older adults and individuals living with chronic health conditions is expected to significantly impact the number of people living with a disability. The design of the built environment is particularly critical for the health, fulfillment, and inclusion of the disability community.

Impact: Incorporating accessible design promotes an inclusive and enabling community in which everyone can engage with the space and contribute to our thriving community.

What are the requirements to earn this credit?

1. Meet all local accessibility laws and codes.
2. Enable all to enter and leave the building and allow for flexible use of space beyond usual.
3. Implement wayfinding to help occupants navigate the space.
4. Use strategies that support individuals with varying cognitive abilities via color, texture, and images.
5. Include tactile messaging to support the needs of individuals with visual disabilities.
6. Offer technology that incorporates the needs of disabled individuals and made available at no cost.
7. Remove barriers to safety to reduce anxiety and support easy access to all spaces.

How is MechSE accomplishing these requirements?

Our new main entrance was designed to allow anyone to enter and exit the facility safely. Drinking fountains, hand wash stations, and restrooms are made available to all. Colors were chosen deliberately in an effort to create softness and soothing (3rd floor), relaxing and secure (1st and 4th floors), warming comfort (Lower Level and 2nd), and non-distracting neutrals and receding ceilings. Much time was dedicated to ensure true randomness in the floor tile color to avoid pattern complexity and mental stress in every space. Patterns were employed in furnishings and locations to add stability and predictability cues to relax the mind. Permanent signage include braille and our website is designed to allow audible tools to help our visually impaired community. Natural plants and artwork provide the final touches that make Lu MEB an accessible and universal design.



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