

Valdosta State University
Library and Information Science Department
MLIS 7180 Library Services for Patrons with Special Needs
(3-credit course)

Course Description: This course will provide students with a general understanding of disability issues with a particular emphasis on print disabilities. The focus will be on obtaining funding and providing services for patrons with special needs. Knowledge and awareness components of this course will be delivered via web-based instruction.

Course Prerequisite: LIS #? Library & Information Science Foundations is a prerequisite for all courses in the Library & Information Science program.

Supplementary Materials & Resources

Closing the Gap Resource Guide (2002). Closing the Gap, Minneapolis, MN.

Instructor's Reading Packet & CD and product demonstration CD's.

Valdosta State University Odum Library: <http://books.valdosta.peachnet.edu/>

EASI Videotape on Disability Services Providers

EASI- ADA COMPLIANCE MATRIX

Students may request books on assistive technology through the Odum Library through Interlibrary Loan at: <http://books.valdosta.edu/ssncheck.html>

E-journals on assistive technology and view GALILEO resources at:
<http://books.valdosta.edu/gal1.html>

Databases such as ERIC: <http://neptune3.galib.uga.edu/cgi-bin/homepage.cgi?link=zber&style=&id=a81ff009-1041788019-5157&cc=1>

Students with disabilities should access the Odum Library site for patrons with disabilities: <http://books.valdosta.edu/ref/access.html>

Technical difficulties: <http://books.valdosta.edu/prob.html>

Course Goal:

This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of disabilities and assistive technologies with a focus on print disabilities. Students will develop a familiarity with the Americans with Disabilities Act, The Technology Assistance Act and other disability legislation.

Course Objectives:

Students will accomplish the following objectives in this course:

1. Complete an ADA compliance audit for a library.
2. Develop a disability services policy manual for a library.
3. Write a brief proposal to obtain funding for an assistive device or service.

Outcomes:

Students will gain an understanding of print disability issues and the special services that school, academic and public libraries can offer to assist patrons with special needs. Students will learn about the ADA and other legislation concerning patrons with special needs, how to develop ADA compliant plans and policies, and how to obtain funding for assistive technologies.

Course Requirements & Evaluation:

Class participation - 25%

(Students should participate in weekly course readings and discussions)

Students will complete an ADA compliance audit for a library using a checklist provided by the instructor. -25%

Students will develop a disability services policies for a library. -25%

Students will write a brief proposal to obtain funding for an assistive device or service. -25%

Course Outline:

CLASS 1: Course Orientation

- Introductions
- Course & syllabus overview

CLASS 2: Print Disabilities Readings and Discussion

CLASS 3: The ADA, The Technology Assistance Act, and other Disability Legislation (Readings and Discussion)

CLASS 4: ADA: Accessibility Guidelines: A Facility Self-Appraisal Readings and Discussion on Facility Planning (ADA Compliance Audit Project Due)

CLASS 5: Assistive Technology Equipment, Services, and Materials (Readings and Discussion)

CLASS 6: Assistive Technology Staff Training (Readings and Discussion)

CLASS 7: Assistive Technology Funding and Writing an Assistive Technology Proposal (Discussion and Project Due)

CLASS 8: Library Services for Patrons with Special Needs in an Electronic Environment (Discussion)

CLASS 9: Disability Services Policies Due (Readings, Discussion)

CLASS 10: Critique class Disability Services Policies