

VISION IMPAIRMENTS (VI)

What is a Vision Impairment?

Visual impairment or low vision is a **severe reduction** in vision that **cannot be corrected** with standard glasses or contact lenses and reduces a person's ability to function at certain or all tasks.

Vision impairments not only affect sight but can cause a person distress due to lighting, sound, and glare from TVs and computer screens.

American Foundation for the Blind

Best Practices for Instruction

- Ensure a class is accessible for a visually impaired student. This includes the availability of auditory software, large-font presentations and audio descriptions for videos.
- Allow students to complete coursework, give presentations and take exams using alternative formats.
- Work with students with specific needs to gain access to adaptive software and technology that assists in effective learning.
- Appoint individuals as needed who can assist as note-takers, readers, scribes or in other essential roles.
- Offer students additional time for assignments and tests, as well as getting to class.
- Ensure course and department processes include accessible or large print forms, brochures, handouts, etc.
- Ensure the safety processes are effective for and understood by the student.
- Encourage the student to access Radford University's services and resources.

Visual Accessibility Includes:

- Color contrast
- Clear readability
- Text, not image, PDFs
- Room arrangement
- Lab equipment
- Video – audio descriptions
- Large pictures/graphics
- Selected textbook has an eBook
- Online learning systems
- Learning materials converted into large print, electronic, or Braille format.
- Information on white boards and chalk boards.
- Tactile graphics

REMINDERS:

The student is the best resource.
Think outside the box
Low tech might be the most effective
Ask CAS for help

"Accessibility allows us to tap into everyone's potential." - Debra Ruth