



THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AND THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT BUILDING COMPLIANCE



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BACKGROUND

- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 was designed to ensure that individuals with disabilities have access to public areas in order to "fully participate in society" (Thomas & Gostin, 2009).
- Title III of the ADA requires that public buildings are accommodated to be accessible for individuals with disabilities (www.ada.gov).
- Overall there appears to be widespread non-compliance with Title III due to a lack of governmental backing and enforcement (National Council on Disability, 2007).
- This study was conducted three consecutive years by Occupational Therapy students (2009, 2010, & 2011).

PURPOSE

- To identify areas that were non-compliant with the standards of ADA in nine buildings on the UTHSC campus.
- To present our results and recommendations to the UTHSC ADA Committee which will be used to increase overall accessibility of the campus.

METHOD

- Buildings were surveyed to determine compliance with ADA standards using the existing facilities checklist retrieved from www.ada.gov.
- Assessment tools used include a tape measure, spring scale, string level, wheelchair, ADA Existing Facilities Checklist, and observation skills.

RESULTS

Approach & Entryway

- Little or no accessible parking
- Steep ramps
- Uneven pavement
- Inadequate lighting in parking garages
- Inadequate signage
- Rugs not secured



Restrooms

- Dispensers out of reach
- Heavy doors
- Narrow entryway
- Inaccessible stalls
- Faucets inoperable with closed fist



Elevators

- Call buttons too high
- No Braille and raised lettering on controls
- No audible and visible door indicators
- Inadequate space
- Lack of signage on door jambs



Signage

- Small font
- No raised/ Braille lettering
- Low contrast
- Lack of directional and informational signage



RECOMMENDATIONS

Approach & Entryway

- Increase accessible parking
- Create landing spaces at every 30' or alternative entryways
- Level pavement
- Increase lighting in parking garages
- Install signs to indicate inaccessible entrance
- Remove or secure rugs

Restrooms

- Lower dispensers
- Replace doors
- Widen entryways
- Create accessible stalls
- Install lever faucet handles

Elevators

- Lower call buttons
- Controls with Braille and raised lettering
- Audible and visible door indicators
- Install signage on door jambs

Signage

- Enlarge font/increase contrast
- Install signs with raised and Braille lettering
- Install directional and information signage (such as directories)

DISCUSSION

- Areas of non-compliance create safety hazards and hardship for individuals with disabilities.
- Many of the recommendations can be easily implemented at little or no cost
- Largely due to the efforts of OT students and their research findings, \$725,000 was allocated to UTHSC for appropriate accommodations to be implemented in buildings on campus.
- Improving accessibility will increase the quality of life of all individuals on campus.

We would like to thank the UTHSC ADA Committee for allowing us the opportunity for this learning experience.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AND THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMPLIANCE



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BACKGROUND

- The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 was meant to serve as a protection for individuals with disabilities through federal law and to ensure equal opportunity (ADA, 2010).
- Title III of the ADA ensures accommodation for individuals with disabilities when accessing public buildings such as schools, libraries, and museums (ADA, 2010).
- This is a continuation of a study done by the class of 2010 MOT students in which three different campus buildings were surveyed.
- Occupational therapy students are familiar with the ADA guidelines in order to educate clients on what accommodations and adaptations are available.

PURPOSE

- The purpose of this study is to determine if the Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities, Dunn Dental Building, and Lamar Alexander Building are in compliance with ADA standards.
- We will present our findings to the ADA committee & make recommendations that will help make the environments of these buildings more user-friendly.

METHOD

- Each building was examined to determine compliance with ADA standards using the existing facilities checklist (entrances, access to goods & services, restrooms, etc.) provided by www.ada.gov.
- Assessment tools included a tape measure, string level, spring scale, wheelchair, ADA Existing Facilities Checklist and observation skills.

RESULTS

Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities

- Signage
- 10-15 lbs doors
- Steep ramp at the rear of the building (1:5)
- Handicap spots at the back of the building occupied with construction equipment.

Dunn Dental Building

- Steep handicap parking (1:15.5)
- Narrow front door (less than 32")
- Inaccessible restrooms (sink, stall, door)
- Signage (small text)



Lamar Alexander Building

- Parking garage
- Handrails
- Elevator dimensions
- Floors 4 & 5 generally inaccessible

RECOMMENDATIONS

Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities

- Hang larger signs with larger print
- Add ramp to rear entrance
- Add contrast to steps and side board of stairs

Dunn Dental Building

- Move handicap spaces from rear to front
- Create landing spaces every 30' feet at entrance walkway
- Hang signs with larger print and Braille
- Add sink space in restrooms
- Enlarge door at front entrance

Lamar Alexander Building

- Install pathway to exit parking garage
- Add handrails to entrance walkway
- Repair automatic door and buzzer to library entrance
- Modify bathroom
- Widen bookshelf aisles
- Create contrast and install back handrail in stairwell.

General

- Hang larger signs with larger print
- Display handicap accessible signs only in areas which are handicap accessible
- Install text talk telephones
- Secure floor mats/rugs
- Create contrast on stair tread
- Ensure availability of handicap accessible parking



* We would like to acknowledge the UTHSC ADA Committee for offering us the opportunity for this learning experience.



The University of Tennessee Health Science Center and the Americans with Disabilities Act



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Background

- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 1990, prohibits organizations from discriminating against qualified individuals with disabilities (ADA, 2009).
- ADA defines disability as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual (ADA, 2009).
- Today there are more than 50 million Americans with a physical, cognitive, sensory, or mental disability.
- Occupational therapists (OTs) are advocates for individuals with disabilities and can include their knowledge of ADA Standards in their scope of practice.

Purpose

The purpose is to determine whether the Madison Plaza, General Education Building (GEB), and Student Alumni Center (SAC) on the UTHSC campus are in compliance with the ADA Standards of Accessible Design.

Procedure

- A discrete nominal checklist was created from the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG, 2002) in order to measure accessible routes and signage of these three buildings.
- The doors, floors, curb ramps, ramps, stairs, elevators, and signage were assessed in each of the buildings.

Results

910, 920, 930 Madison Plaza

- curb ramps on either side of island
- flared edges of curb ramps
- ramp with no handrails
- elevators
- signage



GEB

- door knobs
- ramps
- elevators



SAC

- entrance to pool/gym
- sidewalk changes in level
- curb ramp
- ramp
- obstructed sign



Recommendations

910, 920, 930 Madison Plaza

- 930 elevators need contrasting walls
- island in front of 930 Madison needs curb ramps.
- reduce garage ramp slope and add handrails.

GEB

- add curb ramp to North entrance
- A-wing needs push-type door handles

SAC

- accessible entrance to pool/gym
- curb ramp needs to be defined
- universal accessibility sign needs to be visible.

Overall

- handrails need to be continuous and extend past last step
- elevator timing device needs resetting, consistent audible/visual signals, and Braille
- reduce flared edges of curb ramps
- user-friendly, vertical, free-standing directory placed at each entrance
- securely attach carpet tiles

We would like to thank the UTHSC ADA Committee for the opportunity to increase our knowledge of accessibility issues. References available upon request.



ADA Compliance: Parking Structures



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Introduction

- OT and Advocacy
 - patients, clients, students, staff, and visitors to facility
- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability (ADA.gov, 2009)

Purpose

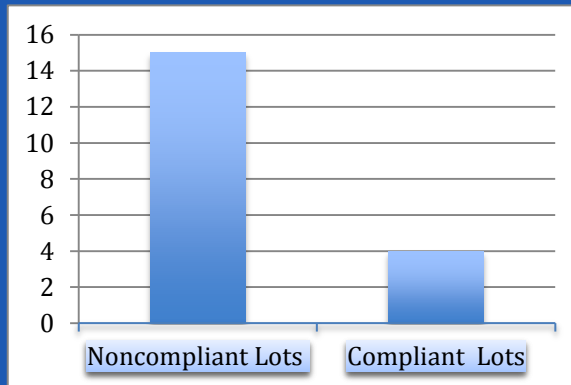
- Compliance of Parking Structures
 - Title III Public Accommodations

Method

- Nineteen lots
 - ADA Survey Form
 - Tape Measure
 - Slope Meter

Areas of Noncompliance

- Number of Accessible Spaces: 7 of 19
- Number of Van Accessible Spaces: 12 of 19
- Shortest Accessible Route: 3 of 19
- Width of Accessible Spaces: 5 of 19
- Access Aisles: 11 of 19
- Slopes: 2 of 19
- Signage: 5 of 19



Recommendations for Compliance

- Increase Accessible Spaces
- Increase Van Accessible Spaces
- Accessible Routes
 - L- 1.remove curb
2. make entrance accessible
 - T- add spaces closer to other entrances
 - P- relocate close to building entrance

▪ Signage

- A- install vertical signs
- H- increase height of current signs, install vertical signs in uncovered portion
- P- vertical sign
- L- raise the height of accessible signs

▪ Slope

- H and P- relocate spaces to even surface

Non-ADA Specific Recommendations

- H and P- lighting
- H- 1.directional signs into garage & building
2.elevator & door inspection
- All structures- Repaint parking space lines



Areas of Noncompliance

	Number of Accessible Spaces	Number of Van Accessible Spaces	Shortest Accessible Route	Width of Accessible Spaces	Access Aisles	Slopes	Signage
A		X			X		X
C	X	X			X		
E	X	X					
F				X	X		
G		X			X		
H		X		X	X	X	X
I		X			X		
J				X			
K	X	X			X		
L	X	X	X		X		X
M							
N				X			
O							
P		X	X		X	X	X
R	X	X		X	X		
T	X	X	X				
V	X	X			X		
W							
X							

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