



A-22 - ACCESSIBILITY

General

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is committed to making all buildings and areas of the campus physically accessible to all faculty, staff, students, and visitors. A universal design principle that provides the same access to all is encouraged. The Designer is expected to provide a design that will comply with the current versions of the North Carolina State Building Code and the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG). <http://www.ada.gov/publicat.htm>. The University requires some elements that exceed these codes and standards

Designers Shall Refer to the following Design Guideline Sections for additional information:

B-40 – Site Hardscape

C-01 – Architecture

C-11 – Interior Design Elements

C-30 – Vertical Transportation

Typical Accessibility Concerns in Renovation & New Construction

1. Path of Travel/Curb Cuts/Ramps

- a. Exterior walkways should not exceed a slope of 1:20 in the direction of travel. If this cannot be achieved because of site topography, then a ramp may be used. Use of ramps should be kept to a minimum. Construction tolerances shall be considered in the design of sloped surfaces to ensure they do not exceed the maximum allowed.
- b. Curb Cuts shall be concrete contrasting in color to the adjacent walkway and shall have detectable warnings in the lower 2'-0" for the width of the ramp portion. All curb cuts shall be in the direction of travel. Diagonal curb cuts at intersections should not be used.
- c. Exterior stairs shall be kept to a minimum. They shall be concrete or approved material of contrasting color from the adjacent walkway. A step with a single riser shall not be used. All stairs shall have handrails on both sides.

2. Doors and Hardware

- a. All lever hardware shall have an end return.
- b. Automatic door opener shall be hardwired. The location of activators (push plates) and stub outs for the automatic door openers shall be shown and dimensioned on the architectural drawings. Activators shall be mounted 36" above the adjacent grade or floor and be 48" minimum from any portion of the door in the open position. The push plate shall be 4-1/2" diameter minimum. Door activator shall be provided at the following locations:
 - i. Main Entrance doors into the building. Where the building has main entrances on different levels, they shall be provided at each level. These locations shall also be stub out for a proximity reader.
 - ii. Entrance doors into the primary multi-fixture toilet rooms on levels served by the main entrances mentioned above
 - iii. Additional locations may be requested on a project by project basis no later than the Design Development Phase
 - iv. Where vestibules are provided, the opener shall activate the doors on each side of the



vestibule. An activator shall be located in the vestibule.

- c. In addition, stub outs for future automatic door openers (conduit supplied to ceiling above and to boxes at future activator locations) shall be provided in the following locations:
 - i. Entrance doors to all other multi-fixture toilet rooms on all floors
 - ii. Entrance doors of common use bathrooms in dormitories, accessible dorm room entrance doors and toilet room doors in an accessible suite
3. Toilet Rooms, Bathrooms and Accessories
 - a. Toilet rooms shall not have vestibules.
 - b. Toilet rooms with more than 10 fixtures (water closets and urinals) should have a cased opening entrance without doors into the toilet room unless it is off an area where a door is desired (i.e. a waiting, reception or seating area).
 - c. Accessible toilet stalls should have a turning space within the stall as defined by the NCBC, (a 60" clear diameter circle).
 - d. The accessible paper towel dispenser shall be adjacent to the accessible lavatories.
 - e. If only one urinal is provided, it shall be accessible.

Gender-Neutral Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Showers

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is committed to promoting a safe, welcoming, and inclusive campus environment for students, faculty, staff and visitors. These facilities provide safety and convenience for families with children (such as mothers bringing sons or fathers bringing daughters to a restroom), individuals with disabilities who need the assistance of an attendant of a different gender, individuals who are transgender or gender nonconforming, and individuals who simply prefer a single use facility.

1. Gender-Neutral Restrooms

The following are the minimum requirements for Gender-Neutral Restrooms (GNR).

- a. General Requirements
 - i. A Gender-Neutral Restroom (GNR) shall meet the following requirements:
 - ii. Single occupancy restroom with only one water closet, lavatory and set of toilet room accessories. A urinal is considered a second fixture and is not allowed.
 - iii. Lockable door that complies with the current NC Building Code, current ADA Standards, and current UNC Design Guidelines. The door lock shall indicate if the room is in use from the outside.
 - iv. Signage
 - v. Signage shall comply with the current NC Building Code, the current ADA Standards, and the current UNC Design Guidelines.
 - vi. Signage shall be the pictogram of a toilet with the word 'RESTROOM' below it. The characters shall be raised with braille below the text.
 - vii. If the restroom is accessible, the signage shall include the International Symbol of Accessibility pictogram (wheelchair symbol).
 - viii. If the restroom is not accessible, directional signage to the nearest accessible restroom shall be provided.
 - ix. When possible, the GNR shall be adjacent to or near the gender-specific restrooms.



When not in the same location provide directional signage to the nearest gender-neutral restroom.

- x. The GNR shall have a diaper changing table.

b. New Building Construction / Additions

New buildings and additions to existing buildings shall meet the following requirements:

- i. A minimum of one GNR shall be provided in each building. Additional GNRs shall be provide so that a person is not be required to travel vertically more than one floor level to access a GNR.
- ii. When possible, all GNR shall be located on a common pathway accessible by the general public that has access to the building. If the building is secure, the GNR shall be located on a common pathway for the persons with access to the building.
- iii. The GNR shall meet the General Requirements in Section 'a', above.
- iv. In new construction and additions, the GNR shall comply with the current NC Building Code, current ADA Standards and current UNC Design Guidelines.

c. Renovations to Existing Buildings

Major renovations to an existing building shall meet the following requirements:

- i. In major building renovation projects that include revisions to existing toilet rooms or new toilet rooms, a minimum of one GNR shall be provided in each building.
- ii. If the renovation includes more than one floor, additional GNRs shall be provided so that a person is not be required to travel vertically more than one floor level to access a GNR.
- iii. When extensive renovations are made to existing restrooms in a location that does not have an existing GNR within one floor level, the project shall provide for at least one GNR.
- iv. The GNR shall meet the General Requirements in Section 'a', above.
- v. The GNR shall comply with the current NC Building Code, current ADA Standards and current UNC Design Guidelines.
- vi. When the existing restrooms in the building are not in compliance with the current accessibility codes and standards, the cost of the GNR may be included in the accessible path-of-travel requirement of the renovation.
- vii. The NC Plumbing Code requires a minimum number of fixtures for males and females. Because the fixture count is gender-specific, a GNR will not count towards the total fixture count required by the code. In existing buildings, the SCO will allow changing the sign of an existing single use restrooms from gender-specific to gender-neutral if the total number of fixtures in the building is not reduced below the current number or the minimum number required by the NC Plumbing Code.

2. Changing Rooms and Showers

The following requirements are the minimum requirements for new construction and major renovations to an existing building:

a. New Building Construction / Additions

New buildings and additions to existing buildings shall meet the following requirements:

- i. At least one gender-neutral private changing room that is accessible from a public space



shall be provided in each location in the building near where locker rooms or changing rooms are located.

- ii. At least one private gender-neutral shower that is accessible from a public space shall be provided where showers are located. Gender-neutral showers should be located within or near gender neutral changing rooms whenever possible.
- iii. The gender-neutral changing room and shower shall comply with the current NC Building Code, current ADA Standards, and current UNC Design Guidelines.

b. Renovations to Existing Buildings

Major renovations to an existing building shall meet the following requirements:

- i. At least one gender-neutral private changing room that is accessible from a public space shall be provided in each location in any building near where locker rooms or changing rooms are located or when the locker room or changing room is renovated.
- ii. For major renovations or when existing showers are renovated, at least one private gender-neutral shower that is accessible from a public space shall be provided in each location in any building near where showers are located. Gender neutral showers should be located within or near gender-neutral changing rooms whenever possible.
- iii. The gender-neutral changing room and shower shall comply with the current NC Building Code, current ADA Standards and current UNC Design Guidelines.

3. Current Locations

Existing gender-neutral restrooms can be found on the following websites:

<http://maps.unc.edu/services/gender-neutral-restrooms/>

<http://facilities.unc.edu/planning/resources/gender-neutral-restrooms/>

4. Lactation Rooms

Provide diaper changing and lactation areas within these restrooms in buildings such as libraries, museums, performing arts buildings and other location where they are most likely to be in demand. Verify with the Facilities Planning Project Manager if this is to be included in the project. Also refer to C-01 – Architecture. In addition to the above also provide:

- a. A fixed built-in diaper changing table / countertop separate from the lavatory.
- b. An electrical outlet adjacent to the diaper changing table between 32" and 42" AFF. It shall be out of reach of a child on the table but within 36" of the surface
- c. An area for a large chair for nursing mothers
- d. Provide signage indicating additional uses

5. Other Requirements

- a. Drinking Fountains located along a path of travel should be recessed when possible.
- b. Elevators shall be provided with a grab bar on at least one wall of the elevator cab.
- c. Platform Wheelchair Lift shall not require a key to operate.
- d. Interior and exterior signs identifying permanent rooms and spaces shall have both the name and number in raised letters and Braille that complies with the current accessibility codes.
- e. In classrooms and auditoriums where a tablet arm is provided for fixed seating, a fixed table or tablet on a pedestal shall be provided at all wheelchair seat locations.
- f. Stair handrails shall have a bottom extension that extends 12" plus one tread width from the



bottom nosing.