What is Assistive Technology?

Assistive Technology is

- accessible computer software and hardware that persons with disabilities can use;
  and,

- Equipment that can serve as compensatory tools for persons with disabilities.

Why do we have Assistive Technology?

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandates that universities provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities to access the services and programs offered. This includes not only physical access to buildings, but also involves many other areas including access to computers and websites.

Students with access to assistive technology and support services usually:

- have higher grade point averages,
- can take more classes per semester,
- are less likely to drop courses; and,
- are more likely to succeed in enrolled courses.
Assistive Technology at Southern Miss

Assistive Technology at Southern Miss is available on the Hattiesburg and Gulf Coast campuses.

**Cook Library Commons on the Hattiesburg Campus and the Gulf Coast Library at Long Beach** have the following assistive technology available:

**Software:**
- **JAWS for Windows**
- **MAGic® Screen Magnification Software**
- **Dragon Naturally Speaking**
- **JSAY**
- **OpenBook**
- **WYNN**
- **Duxbury Braille Translation Software**

**Hardware:**
- **MAGic® Large Print Keyboard**
- **Pearl**
- **VersaPoint Duo Braille Embosser**
- **CCTV**
- **Sorenson Video Phone**

If you need assistance locating, using, or to request assistive technology in the Cook Library Learning Commons or the Gulf Coast Library call iTech at 601-266-4357 (HELP) or ODA at 601-266-5024.

**ODA's office suite, located in Bond Hall on the Hattiesburg Campus,** has Assistive Technology, software and equipment, for administering exam accommodations at ODA: CCTV, JAWS for Windows and ZoomText. Further, a Braille Embosser (Printer) with Duxbury Braille Translation software and Tactile Image Enhancer is available for in-office use at ODA.
Assistive Technology in Department Laboratories & Classrooms:

When a need has been identified and verified, the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) will install Assistive Technology in classrooms, laboratories and offices on all Southern Miss Teaching Sites. For more information and to request software or hardware, call the ODA Technology Specialist at (601) 266-5024. Software and hardware available for this purpose is:

- ZoomText Magnifier/Reader
- JAWS for Windows
- Dragon Naturally Speaking
- Color and Monochrome CCTVs
- ClaroRead Plus
- MathTalk
- Scientific Notebook

Adaptive Equipment available for Loan from ODA:

Students with identified and verified needs can borrow adaptive equipment from ODA. When borrowing equipment, students must sign an ODA Equipment Loan Receipt and Agreement form. The following is a list of equipment available for loan:

- FM Listening Systems
- Audio recorders
- TeleTypewriters (TTYs)
- Graphic Aid for Mathematics
- Math Window

For detailed information on assistive technology and equipment available from iTech and ODA, read on!
Descriptions of adaptive software available:

**JAWS for Windows**
JAWS is a sophisticated screen reader with voice synthesizer for individuals with visual impairments and learning disabilities. This computer software program works well with Windows and the Internet. For more information on this software, visit:

http://www.freedomscientific.com

**ZoomText Magnifier/Reader**
ZoomText Magnifier and Reader is a computer software program with an advanced screen magnifier and screen reader for low vision. It reads all essential Windows components and can enlarge text from 2x to 16x on a color monitor. For more information on this software, visit:

http://www.aisquared.com

**MAGic® Screen Magnification Software**
MAGic is a screen magnification program designed for use by individuals with low vision. This software enlarges text up to 12 times and graphics, including Windows, up to 8 times. Other features include complete type through access; follow-the-cursor, follow-the-mouse, and attribute tracking modes; a screen location display; support for 8-, 16-, 24-, and 32-bit color; color smoothing; ability to use keystrokes to access a list of running programs and system tray items, and to bring up column and row settings, lists of cells, cells, rows, cells with content, and lists of hyperlinks and comments in Word. For more information on this software, visit: http://www.freedomscientific.com

**Dragon Naturally Speaking**
Dragon Naturally Speaking is a computer software program that can assist persons having difficulty using computer keyboards. So instead of typing, the user speaks into a microphone to dictate correspondence, notes, reports and E-mail.

For more information on this software, visit: http://www.nuance.com/dragon/index.htm
Duxbury Braille Translation Software
The Duxbury Braille Translation Software is used to provide Braille computer output for individuals who are blind. It can be used with any commercial Braille Embosser to include the VersaPoint Duo Braille Embosser located in the Cook Library Commons or the Enabling Technologies Juliet Pro 60 Braille Embosser located at the Office for Disability Accommodations in Bond Hall. For more information on this software, visit:
http://www.duxburysystems.com

JSay
J-Say Professional is a voice input program designed for use by individuals who are blind or have low vision. This product enables users of JAWS for Windows to talk to the computer using a natural voice, and obtain speech feedback of their dictation and other related on-screen activity. For more information on this software, visit:
http://www.thespeechgurus.com/jsaysoftware.html

OpenBook
OpenBook software is a screen reader program that can be used on computers with speech synthesizer and scanner features. This software can benefit students with visual impairments and learning disabilities. For more information on this software, visit:
http://www.freedomscientific.com/

WYNN
WYNN is a software program for people who struggle with reading and writing. WYNN lets you hear and see what you type into the computer, files that are already in the computer, and the Internet. For more information on this software, visit:
http://www.freedomscientific.com/
**ClaroRead Plus**
ClaroRead PLUS is a computer software program designed to help individuals with reading and writing disabilities. ClaroRead Plus will read any text document, e-mail, and web page or a scanned document. For more information on this software, visit:  

**MathTalk**
For persons having difficulty using computer keyboards, MathTalk allows a user to voice any level of math through Dragon Naturally Speaking and Scientific Notebook. For more information on this software, visit:  
http://www.mathtalk.com/products.htm

**Scientific Notebook**
Scientific Notebook is software that allows the user to create documents with mathematics, text and create mathematical graphs. For more information on this software, visit: http://www.mackichan.com/

**Descriptions of adaptive equipment available:**

**CCTV**
A CCTV (closed-circuit television) or video magnifier which provides a simple way for persons with low vision to enlarge text and images. CCTVs are used mostly for reading but can be used for writing and other activities. There are several different makes and models of CCTVs. Depending on the brand and model, CCTV systems can magnify materials from 4x to 50x with 24 different foreground/background color combinations. CCTVs are available in a single unit model with its own screen included or can be plugged into a computer screen so that the user can work simultaneously with the computer and the CCTV. For more information on this equipment, visit:  
**MAGic® Large Print Keyboard**
The MAGic® Large Print Keyboard provides low vision users with an easy-to-read keyboard with 22 dedicated MAGic keys that make learning and using MAGic screen magnification software easier than ever. For more information on this equipment, visit: [http://www.freedomscientific.com/Products/LowVision/MAGicLargePrintKeyboard](http://www.freedomscientific.com/Products/LowVision/MAGicLargePrintKeyboard)

**VersaPoint Duo Interpoint Braille Embosser**
The VersaPoint Duo Braille Embosser is a printer that is used along with the Duxbury Braille Translation Software translates formatted text (in Microsoft Word) to Braille. The VersaPoint Duo Braille Embosser will print in either single side mode or dual side mode. It has the capability to emboss in Grade 1 or Grade 2 Braille. For more information on this equipment and software, visit: [http://www.synapseadaptive.com/blazie/versapoint%20duo.htm](http://www.synapseadaptive.com/blazie/versapoint%20duo.htm)

**Juliet Pro Braille Embosser**
The Juliet Pro Braille Embosser is a printer that is used with the Duxbury Braille Translation Software. It translates formatted text (in Microsoft Word) to Braille. The Juliet Pro Braille Embosser will print in either single side mode or dual side mode. It has the capability to emboss in Grade 1 or Grade 2 Braille. For more information on this equipment and software, visit: [http://www.brailler.com/juli2.htm](http://www.brailler.com/juli2.htm)

**Pearl**
The Pearl is a scanning camera used to read newspapers, magazines, books etc. for students who are blind, have low vision or have a learning disability. This device can be used with WYNN or OpenBook to read text from scanned material aloud. For more information on this equipment, visit: [http://www.freedomscientific.com](http://www.freedomscientific.com)
**Tactile Image Enhancer**
The Tactile Image Enhancer is a tactile graphics embosser designed for individuals who are blind or have low vision. This device can be used to work with Flexi-Paper to create tactile maps, graphs, charts, calendars, etc. For more information on this equipment visit:

http://www.repro-tronics.com/tie.html

**Graphic Aid for Mathematics**
The Graphic Aid for Mathematics allows the user to construct geometric and other figures and graphs related to arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and calculus using cork board, push pins, rubber bands and flat spring wires.

**Math Window**
Math Window is a math teaching tool that uses Nemeth Code Braille and text magnetic tiles to easily create math formulas on a flat service for easy reading. Both the Basic Math Kit and the Algebra Math kit are available for use.

**Sorenson Video Phone**
The Sorenson Video Phone uses Sorenson VRS (Video Relay Service) as an alternative to the TTY and TTY Relay Services. Sorenson VRS will enable individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing to communicate more effectively and naturally with the hearing world through the use of Sorenson's RID or NAD certified sign language interpreters and high speed two way video communications.

http://www.sorensonvrs.com/index

**FM Listening Systems**
For students with hearing impairments, an FM Listening System can transmit the speaker’s voice directly to the user’s ears. This may help in focusing on what the speaker is saying or enable the user to hear the speaker better, especially in large classrooms.
Audio Recorder
An audio recorder is a standard tape recorder or digital recorder used by students to record and play back lectures.

TeleTYpewriter (TTY)
A TTY is a special device that lets people with hearing and speech impairments use telephones to communicate by typing messages back and forth to one another instead of talking and listening.

Assistive Technology Web Sites

Universal Design
http://www.cast.org/

ATIA (Assistive Technology Industry Association)
http://www.atia.org

AbleData
http://www.abledata.com

CATEA The National Public Website on Assistive Technology
http://assistivetech.net/

Web Page Accessibility
http://www.section508.gov/
http://webaim.org/

Professional Rehab and AT Organization
http://www.resna.org

Parent Advocacy Web Site
http://www.pacer.org

AT at Southern Mississippi
http://www.usm.edu/oda

For More Information Contact:
Office for Disability Accommodations
118 College Drive #8586
Hattiesburg, MS  39406
Phone:  601-266-5024
Fax:  601-266-6035
Email:  Karen.Lott@usm.edu
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