

# Chapter 6

## Visual Impairments

### A. Overview

The term “visual impairments” reflects the notion that students may have varying levels of impairment — from low vision to blindness. Faculty can make a big difference in students’ success by ensuring that they provide materials in an appropriate format in a timely fashion.

#### Possible student characteristics

- Struggle with glare or reduced lighting.
- Difficulty learning visual concepts.
- Difficulty getting to class because of transportation problems.
- May depend on a service animal to get to class.

#### Possible accommodations

Decisions as to appropriate accommodations should be made on a case-by-case basis. No particular accommodations are appropriate for all students, but below are some common ones offered students with visual impairments.

- Alternative text.
- Brailled text.
- Material in large print text.
- Scan/Read technology (such as Kurzweil, JAWS).
- Extended time.
- Preferred seating.
- Readers.
- Enlarged print.
- Distraction-reduced testing environment.
- Note-takers or tape recorders.