Assistive Technology and Alternative Media

What is Alternative Media?

Alternative media (alt media) is media in a format allowing use with assistive technology or direct use by students with disabilities. Some formats of alt media include: Braille, PDFs, Word docs, and other specialized formats. These forms of media allow for a variety of educational styles and preferences. Additionally, assistive technology provided for using alt media tend to include study tools for note-taking, and other related functions.

For assistance with Alternative Media and Assistive Technology, coordinate with the Alternative Media Instructional Assistant for the following:

- Call Tracie Bosket at **(805) 583-4107** for closed captioning of instructional videos
- Scanning text material using text recognition software and transcribing it to alternative forms of output, such as large print, voice, Braille, and audio recording; arranging for other transcription services
- Becoming aware of the perspective of individuals with disabilities
- Understanding how people with disabilities use assistive technologies to access the Web
- Understanding which laws and standards apply to the college
- Making documents and emails accessible. For a step-by-step guide, see https://bit.ly/2P6ucs1.
- Call **(805) 378-1461 #3**, or email mcaccessmedia@vcccd.edu.

Students who are blind:

- Students may use screen reading software with speech synthesis or refreshable Braille displays to hear or feel the content of the screen.
- Students navigate a website with keyboard shortcuts NOT the mouse.
- For multimedia components on the web, descriptive narration is used to describe unspoken activity within the video clip.

Students with low vision:

- Students may use the limited accessibility features within the browser to increase the font size of the page they are reading.
- If increased magnification is required, they may use specialized software to magnify the size of text displayed on the computer screen.
- If vision is unstable, students may use speech output to aid in navigation by "listening" to the buttons.

Students with learning disabilities:

- Students may be unable to process large amounts of text information and may use text to speech software or optical character recognition scan and read systems to help with reading difficulties in order to improve reading speed and comprehension.

Students who are deaf or hard of hearing:

- Students will not be able to hear auditory content of the website displayed through streaming media and will require closed captioning of video clips and downloadable transcripts of spoken activity.

Students with physical impairments:

- Students may use speech recognition to surf the web by voice. Voice commands are available within the software to "speak" web addresses, click on hyperlinks, fill out forms by voice and hear the content of the web read back to them.