

# PRINCIPLE 8

## UNIVERSAL ACCESS



*Knight Law Center, 2025*





## PRINCIPLE 8: UNIVERSAL ACCESS



### Principle

In addition to complying with applicable federal and state requirements, the university is committed to making all new facilities welcoming and accessible to all users without discriminating on the basis of ability. This inclusive environment enables all users to participate equally in the university's programs, activities, and services.

**To ensure access for all members of its community, all construction projects shall follow the principle refinements below.**

### Pattern Summary

*(Refer to "Principle 11: Patterns" on page 91 for the complete pattern text.)*

- **Universal Access**
- **Welcoming to All**

### Principle Refinements

- The built environment, including but not limited to buildings, outdoor areas, signs, furniture, amplification systems, alarms, and other features and facilities, shall be designed and constructed to be welcoming to all and conveniently usable within the fullest range of human need. Main entrances, offices, classrooms, laboratories, all other assignable spaces, restrooms, and general circulation spaces shall be inclusively accessible and usable for the entire population. Exceptions to this principle shall be made only in consultation and concurrence with the Disabilities Issues Administrative Council.
- Design of modifications to existing facilities must be guided by the Universal Access pattern and result in fully accessible spaces to the greatest extent

feasible. Consideration also should be given to the possibility of extending a project to include other parts of the facility in order to improve the accessibility of the affected program or building. Projects that substantially renovate entire buildings or floors of buildings or sites are expected to result in a continuous barrier-free environment and not leave patches or islands of barriers.

- When a program is created or relocated, the existing degree of accessibility shall not be diminished and, to the greatest extent possible, should be improved. Plans for relocation and related modification shall be reviewed by Campus Planning and Facilities Management in consultation with the Disabilities Issues Administrative Council as needed.
- Major capital construction projects, including new construction and renovation that could affect the usability of a site or building, shall be reviewed by the Physical Access Committee. This review should occur near the end of the schematic design phase of each project.



EMU Entrance, 2021



Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, 2012  
Accessible Entrance