

## Fast Facts for Faculty

### Assistive Technology

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Assistive technology (AT) is software, hardware and adaptive equipment that enable individuals with disabilities to access information and technology. AT can include low tech devices such as digital recorders, to a range of high tech devices and computer programs. Assistive Technology removes barriers to access and promotes independence for people with disabilities. AT is located in multiple areas on campus, including computer labs and the library.



#### Types of Assistive Technology

**Magnification devices/software**—are used by people with low vision. These products enlarge and modify print material or material on a computer.

**Speech recognition software**—converts words spoken into a microphone to text on a computer. This software is often used by people who cannot physically type or have a specific learning disability.

**FM systems**—are transmitter and receiver systems that amplify sound for someone who is hard of hearing.

**Screen readers**—are computer programs that read aloud text on a computer screen. Various formats are used by people who are blind, have low vision, or learning disabilities.

**Alternate Text Formats**—provide access to print materials via alternative methods, including Braille, audio files (MP3) and electronic text (PDF). Such alternate formats are useful for students who are blind, have low vision, have physical disabilities or learning disabilities.

#### Assistive Technology Specialist

The Office of Disability Services has a staff member, Aaron Forsyth, who works to ensure access to AT on campus. Aaron can:

- Provide technical and instructional support related to assistive hardware, software, and peripherals.
- Research and implement other technologies that assist students with disabilities.
- Ensure that campus technology and computer labs are accessible for people with disabilities.

Aaron also works with faculty through partnerships with the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL).

If you would like to see a demonstration of any of the campus assistive technology, call Aaron at x73088 or email him at [akforsyt@uncc.edu](mailto:akforsyt@uncc.edu)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE:

<http://www.ds.uncc.edu/StudentServices/Accommodations/AssistiveTechnology.htm>

Questions or comments? E-mail us at [dissrvcs@uncc.edu](mailto:dissrvcs@uncc.edu) or call 704-687-4355.