



**American with Disabilities Act (ADA)  
Site Review  
February 7, 2017**

This Memorandum is written to assist in the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) review of the USF School of Architecture.

The School of Architecture is located in three floors of the HMS Building located on the USF Tampa Campus. HMS Building is considered a legacy building having been constructed in the early 1960's. Phased renovations over the years have brought the building to applicable codes and compliance standards for both the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment Act (ADAAA) as a part of these renovations.

The Building is served by nearby Parking Lot (41) that has designated Accessible Parking for both automobile and van access. Additional accessible parking is available in surrounding adjacent Parking lots.

**The Accessible approach and Entrance (Exterior Routes) of travel** are fully ADA Compliant for stable, firm and smooth concrete surface. There are clear widths and slopes for all sidewalks and walking surfaces. The Building has an extensive exterior ramp for wheel chair access and all elements of the ramp are fully compliant.

**Doorway Clear Width and Maneuvering Clearance** are within standard. **Exterior door opening force:** USF has established a desired Push/Pull Force of 8 to no more than 10 pounds of force. Interior doors are to be adjusted to 5 pounds of Push/Pull Force.

- **Of five doors tested for Push/Pull three of five doors requires excessive force to open and enter the interior space. *Recommendation: That a Routine Maintenance Program be implemented to inspect, test and adjust the mechanical closing mechanisms perhaps quarterly to maintain the appropriate Push/Pull pressure.***
- **The Administrative Offices of the School of Architecture located on the third floor of HMS Building has an attractive and welcoming Glass store front style entrance. As this is a highly visible and frequented by multiple stakeholders who many may have physical limitations consideration should be given to installing an automatic door opener at this location.**

Interior doorways are compliant for 32 inch or greater unobstructed opening. Maneuvering clearance is sufficient however it is noted that the corridors, hallways and paths of travel into the classrooms and studios are cluttered with extraneous materials; classroom of casual chairs; unwanted furniture; and in particular the fourth floor hallway has large wheeled trash receptacles haphazardly positioned within the corridor that restricts the ADA required path of travel for all.

The classrooms, Computer Laboratory and Studios have an abundance of work surfaces that offer varying heights, and legroom to accommodate persons with a variety of disabilities. Wheelchair height furniture was noted in all locations visited.

The Model Shop deserves commendation. In order to provide a safe and effective work area for an architectural student who uses a wheelchair a specially designed workbench was created that contains at "wheelchair height" all of the requisite power and hand tools needed. The Model shop has realigned the positioning of many of the power tools and work stations to assure safe paths of travel for all.

*Recommendation: Although not an ADA requirement the health and safety of the shop environment would be enhanced by the addition of Emergency Power Cut-Off Switches strategically located throughout the work space should an emergency situation occur.*

The HMS building is serviced by a passenger elevator original to the building: The entire building is serviced by this single elevator. The elevator meets minimal compliance standards and is under a maintenance agreement.

All water fountains are ADA compliant

Toilet Rooms:

All of the Public Rest Rooms were renovated to be in fully code and ADA compliant. All have automatic motion activated fixtures and entrance doors.

Of six automatic restroom doors tested four failed to operate. Two were not turned on and the remaining two doors appear to be broken.

The sink faucets on the second floor men's room were not operational at the time of testing. Several sink faucets in several of the Men's Restrooms were noted to be loose and in need of tightening.

**Recommendation:** That Work Order Requests be processed for inspection, testing and repair of the motion activated devices within the restrooms throughout the HMS Building.

**Summary:**

On balance the HMS Building is accessible and ADA Compliant. The USF Physical Access Workgroup and the USF System ADA Coordinator monitor and review the accessibility features of this facility annually to assure on-going compliance of the programs and services offered in this facility. Any items or deficiencies are prioritized by the USF Physical Access Workgroup to be addressed as a part of the USF Transition Planning process. There are no items pertaining to HMS Building under PAW Review at this time.

- Most of the items noted during the review are up-keep and routine maintenance to assure that the restroom, elevator and doorways are maintained in good working order and compliant with codes and ADA standards.

University of South Florida is responsible for compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act and Florida Statutes 553. The USF System ADA Coordinator is *David A. Owens, Ph.D. Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Equal Opportunity (DIEO).*

David A. Owens Ph.D. USF System ADA Coordinator