

**6.S196: Principles and Practice of Assistive Technology**  
**Campus Accessibility Lab Exercise, 3PM, Monday, September 12, 2011**

**Objectives:**

- Survey the state of wheelchair accessibility on MIT campus
- Understand the challenges and realities associated with using a wheeled mobility device

**Activities**

- Campus tour with wheelchairs on Monday, September 12
- Reflection discussion session in lab on Wednesday, September 14

**Deliverables**

- Written assignment on campus accessibility tour experiences, due before lab on Wednesday, September 14 (3pm)

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In this lab activity, you will use a wheelchair to get around campus to achieve certain tasks. You will document your experiences with text and, if possible, photos and diagrams.

**Instructions for Monday, September 12:**

1. Obtain a wheelchair from 32-044. Become familiar with how to use it.
2. Follow the instructions on the last page. You should do the milestones in the order provided.

During the tour of campus, you should:

- Note the location and details of any accessibility challenges that you encounter, including:
  - Difficulties due to non-functioning/malfunctioning equipment or facilities designed to facilitate accessibility
  - Recommendations that would improve the accessibility of campus (e.g. documentation of missing accessible affordances)
- Make note of accessibility “successes,” surprises, or personal encounters.

You can document these issues in words, photos/video (with a digital or cellphone camera), and schematics (such as sketches, annotated Google Maps/OpenStreetMaps, or anything else).

3. Return to 32-044 by 4:30pm to return the wheelchairs and for a quick debrief (even if you have not finished all the tasks, plan to come back to 32-044 by 4:30pm).
4. Submit the following written assignment (each person should submit a separate document) that includes the following sections:

**Individual Writing Assignment (due by 3pm on Wednesday, September 14)**

The document should include the following:

- A. Document and briefly discuss the accessibility challenges that you encountered.
- B. Discuss what you learned about the realities and challenges of using a wheeled mobility device.
- C. Reflect on your personal experience and what you've learned from this activity.
- D. Optionally, discuss how this lab exercise might be improved.

There are no strict rules on the length of your report, but one to two pages of text should be sufficient.  
(continued on back)

Section A can be similar for each of the members of your team (but should still be submitted with every report); sections B and C should be done individually. Assignments will be graded (letter grades will be assigned) in terms of effective description of the accessibility challenges in section A, and the ideas and content in sections B and C, and the clarity of your writing.

*Submission Instructions*

Written reports should be submitted electronically. For this course, we will ask you to upload your assignments to your own Dropbox account ([www.dropbox.com](http://www.dropbox.com)) and share it with [ppat@csail.mit.edu](mailto:ppat@csail.mit.edu). The file should be in PDF format and be named as follows:

PPAT\_Lab02\_LastName\_FirstName.pdf

Details on assignment submission will be given in class. You should also bring a hard copy for class discussion on Wednesday.

## Instructions for Campus Accessibility Survey Lab Activity

### 1. Activity Guidelines

- Each team must have a designated “wheelchair user” at all times.
- The wheelchair user cannot use of his/her legs.
- The wheelchair can be user-powered or pushed.
- As the wheelchair user, ask for help only when you need it. Try to visualize what you would/would not be comfortable with if you relied on the wheelchair for mobility.

### 2. Safety first, last, and always!

- This is not a race! Move safely and carefully, especially if you have not used a wheelchair before. Be aware of yourself, your team members, and your surroundings, and use your common sense.
- In the event of a problem (e.g. malfunctioning wheelchair or other issue), return to 32-044 promptly.

### Tasks:

Go to Lobby 7 via one of these paths (see the top of your sheet).

- a) Exit building 32 through the first floor and travel outside along Vassar Street and enter building 7 (77 Mass. Ave.) from Massachusetts Avenue.
- b) Exit building 32 from the entrance closest to the gym in the Stata Center, then travel outside (within campus through the opening in building 26 and between buildings 24 and 12, not along Vassar Street). Enter building 7 from Massachusetts Avenue.
- c) Travel on the third floor of buildings 32, 36, and 34, and 24 (a wheelchair lift will be involved). Go outside from building 24 and then travel outside toward Massachusetts Avenue. Enter building 7 from Massachusetts Avenue.
- d) Travel in the tunnels from building 32 to building 26, then (above ground) along the Infinite Corridor.
- e) Travel on the third floor (designated by MIT as accessible) of buildings 32, 36, 34, 38, 39, 37. Somewhere around building 37, the accessible path is on the fourth floor. Exit to Massachusetts Avenue from Building 35, go outside, and enter building 7 from Massachusetts Avenue.

1. Obtain a “Campus Accessibility Map” from the MIT Visitor Center in Lobby 7.

2. Complete the following activities, starting with the letter that you were assigned and moving forward in the alphabet (return to A if you reach F):

- A. Go by the piece of art in the stairwell of building 4, just off the Infinite Corridor.
- B. Take a drink from a water fountain somewhere along the Infinite Corridor (it can be on one of the upper floors). Note the location, and take a photograph of the water fountain if you have a camera.
- C. Go through the “Edgerton Alley” exhibits (fourth floor of building 4).
- D. Go to the stacks in the **basement** of Hayden Memorial Library (building 14) and note the title/author of a graduate thesis from the year at which you started at MIT.
- E. Go to the electronic piano keyboards on the second floor of the Lewis Music Library. Take a photograph if you have a camera.
- F. Obtain any paper form from outside of Student Financial Services (11-120).
- G. Log onto any Athena-enabled computer, and email [ppat@csail.mit.edu](mailto:ppat@csail.mit.edu) with your location.

3. Return to 32-044 using a different route than the one you took to get to lobby 7. Time permitting, try one of the routes that involve traveling outdoors or along the third or fourth floor of buildings 32, 36, 34, 38, 39, 37, and 35, or going through building 24 to 34, 36, and 32.