

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Student Technology Fee Funding Request

## Proposal

*Beginning 2005-2006*

Title: ADA Compliant Adaptive Technology Lab

Unit Submitting Proposal: Office for Students with Disabilities

**Briefly summarize the proposed project.**

Our goal is to provide the opportunity for students with disabilities to have access to an equitable academic career by enhancing the Office for Students with Disabilities' adaptive technology lab through acquiring new hardware and software and updating current solutions for equitable accessibility of information.

According to the United States Assistive Technology Act of 1998, adaptive technology is defined as any "product, device, or equipment, whether acquired commercially, modified or customized, that is used to maintain, increase, or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities." Common computer-related adaptive technology products include screen magnifiers, large-key keyboards, alternative input devices such as touch screen displays, over-sized trackballs and joysticks, speech recognition programs, and text readers.

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga prides itself on being a university that both embraces and celebrates diversity on campus while preparing students for life in a global society. A portion of the diverse population on campus that is both growing and underserved is the group of students with disabilities. These students have specific technological needs that are not currently being met on this campus. Because these technological needs are not being met, many students with disabilities are having a very difficult time passing classes. By providing technological solutions, such as a Tactile Image Enhancer to raise mathematical graphs, we will be helping students become more successful. The University as a whole was not prepared to receive a group of students this semester that have visual impairments. A portion of this project will be specific to that population of students.

**Identify the project goals and objectives.** Briefly describe your goals and objectives. Include in the description how the outcomes of the project will improve teaching and learning. Indicate also the anticipated reach of your project. In other words, how many and what type of students will benefit from the successful execution of the proposed funding? How will they benefit?

- To provide UTC students with disabilities a computer lab with a comprehensive adaptive/assistive technology foundation
- To enhance UTC's excellence as an accessible learning institution
- To better serve UTC's population of students with disabilities in order to facilitate a higher student success rate

According to the Institute for Higher Education Policy, the national average of college students with disabilities is 9-10% of the total population. This percentage of UTC students is nearly 900 students with disabilities that could receive equitable access through the Office for Students with Disabilities adaptive technology lab.

The technology accessed through this lab will make learning more accessible for students with disabilities. This will allow for more independent mastery of classroom curriculum. With the use of this technology lab, students with disabilities will spend less time attempting to gain access to information and have more time to spend learning the information.

As stated in our guiding principles, The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga is committed to preparing educated men and women for meaningful and productive lives. By providing an adaptive technology lab on campus, these students will also learn to utilize the adaptive technology programs for use later in life. This technology will play a large part in preparing students with disabilities for a more independent and successful future.

**Describe the method with which you will achieve your goals.** Briefly describe your methodology. Include a calendar of target project dates. That is, when will the major steps in the project begin and end?

The Office for Students with Disabilities has researched prices and ordering information for all hardware and software requirements to build 10 universal workstations.

- Within 1 week following the allocation of tech. fees, the Office for Students with Disabilities will order all hardware and software required for universal workstations.
- Within one week of receiving the hardware/software, the Office for Students with Disabilities will contact the Information Technology Department to request assistance in installation of all hardware/software.
- During every intake appointment, students will set up training times with the adaptive technology coordinator.
- Maintenance and updating of all equipment and software will be done on a continuous basis through the adaptive technology coordinator. The adaptive technology coordinator will evaluate the program annually for any necessary updates.

The next phase of this project will be to equip computer workstations in the large computer labs on campus with all the necessary software and a scanner at a ratio of 1:50. This will also include training staff to on the use of the adaptive technology software. This could also include training tutors in the various labs on the use of this software and technology tools so they can better assist our students with disabilities.

**How will you evaluate the success of the project?** Describe your evaluation criteria clearly. How will you determine whether the project is successful?

The Office for Students with Disabilities will utilize a sign in system to monitor the use of the adaptive technology lab. We will track the increase of adaptive technology use due to updated equipment and training on the use of technology. We will also compare the success of the students using the lab to the success prior to the development of this lab.

**Previous grant(s):** If you received a Student Technology Fee grant last year, have you submitted your final report?

The Office for Students with Disabilities has not received a Student Technology Fee Grant previously.

**Proposed location:** Describe the proposed location of the equipment, software, etc.

The proposed location of this adaptive technology lab is Room 111 and Room 113 of Frist Hall.

**Requested Budget:** Clearly identify one-time costs, such as equipment, shipping, and installation. Clearly identify recurring costs, such as maintenance and support, and the source of the funds to cover the recurring costs.

All costs for this project are one time costs. Costs include purchasing five new computers, software packages for each new and existing computer (JAWS, ZoomText, Dragon NaturallySpeaking, Kurzweil 1000 and Kurzweil 3000), USB storage devices, scanner and tactile image enhancer.

**Summary** of projected costs

Salaries (if any)	\$ N/A
Equipment (hardware and software)	*\$ 30,000.00

Complete the following items as appropriate

Installation	\$ N/A
Construction/renovation costs	\$ N/A
Annual maintenance/support costs	\$ N/A
Training	\$ N/A
Recurring costs per year	\$ N/A

<b>Total</b> project one-time costs	\$ 30,000.00
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<b>Estimated</b> recurring costs per year	\$ N/A
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**\*A detailed breakdown of all necessary items is attached.**

Identify the area(s) responsible for operating and maintaining the equipment.

Office for Students with Disabilities/ Adaptive Technology Coordinator

**Approval** by Dean or Vice Chancellor: \_\_\_\_\_

**Individual** responsible to complete proposal if funded: Michelle Rigler

**Priority** established by Dean or Vice Chancellor: \_\_\_\_\_

**Deans and Vice Chancellors should return** completed forms (along with 25 copies) to Provost John Friedl, Chair of the University Technology Committee, prior to **December 13, 2004**.

JAWS Version 5.0	6@		\$1,295		\$7,770
S+H					\$545
Kurzweil 1000	1@		\$2,895		\$2,895
S+H			\$202		\$202
Kurzweil 3000	2@		\$1,995		\$3,990
S+H			\$140		\$140
ZoomText (Starter Pack)	1@		\$1,595		\$1,595
ZoomText (Add-On Packs)	7@		\$395		\$2,765
S+H					\$305
TextHelp	8@		\$625		\$5,000
S+H			\$481		\$350
Dragon Naturally Speaking	1@		\$619		\$619
S+H					\$45
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>\$26,221</b>

<b>Category</b>		<b>Balance</b>
Hardware		\$18,862
Software		\$26,221
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$45,083</b>
<b>Credit</b>		
ADA Fund		\$15,083
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$30,000</b>