

**The Virginia State University
Student Health and Counseling Center
Students with Disabilities Program**

**STATE OF THE ART
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY**

"For people without disabilities technology makes things easier.
For people with disabilities, technology makes things possible."*

*(IBM Training Manual, 1997)

WHAT IS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY? – Assistive Technology is equipment and software designed to address the special needs of persons with disabilities such as hearing, visual, learning, and mobility, in order to assist them in the learning process of higher education.

WHAT KIND OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY IS AVAILABLE AT VSU? - The following is a list of equipment and software currently in use at the Students with Disabilities Learning Lab and other locations across campus to include residence halls and Johnston Memorial Library.

KURZWEIL 3000 SCAN AND READ – (Reading and comprehensive) – Software used for individuals with learning impairments that possess deficiencies in reading text and spelling. It allows students to scan and read material, highlight, note take and outline material. It also assists with decoding and serves as a vocabulary building tool.

DRAGON NATURALLY SPEAKING - (Voice Recognition) – flexible, discrete speech recognition system that allows you to speak to your computer naturally and at a normal pace to create, edit, format, and move text in virtually any Windows application. It allows you to operate the PC totally hands-free with voice commands and mouse control.

INSPIRATION - (Outlining, comprehension and pre-writing) - a visual learning software tool used to develop ideas and organize thinking. Inspiration is used for a wide variety of visual learning activities including concept mapping, webbing, and the use of graphical organizers; planning and organizing student projects and administrative tasks, brainstorming and pre-writing.

JAWS - (Speech Output) – Premier screen reader application) – a versatile and powerful screen reader that enables blind or visually impaired users to extensively navigate the internet in Microsoft Office and most popular computer operations.

ZOOMTEXT – (Low vision solution) - magnifier/screen reader software that provides enlargement of information and/or text on the computer screen. It makes computer accessible and friendly to low vision users.

PULSE SMART PEN – (Recording device) – looks like a bigger version of a normal everyday pen that not only is capable of recording the audio sounds in a room, but also creates a visual history of every pen stroke that is made.

RECORDING FOR BLIND & DYSLEXIC – Provides cassettes of reading material (books) for students who cannot effectively read standard print because of visual and physical impairments and learning disabilities.

**VSU WEBSITE IS HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE (test-only version)
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