



# Access Nashville

## Accessibility is good business!

### How Will Access Nashville Training Benefit a Student?

Access Nashville engages students in service through volunteerism, and at the same time encourages thoughtful reflection through classroom discussion and problem-solving on the ways in which accessibility issues affect the disability community. Training promotes a meaningful awareness of disability issues through hands-on activity and social action in the community. The future leaders of tomorrow, who live throughout the United States, experience the importance of accessibility for all persons.

### What Access Nashville Does

Access Nashville identifies “accessibility friendly” restaurants for customers who use wheelchairs and/or have other disabilities, so all persons can make comfortable decisions about where to eat in their communities. It does not intend to assess compliance with the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

*“I had my eyes completely opened to little things that make a difference in whether a person in a wheelchair can actually enjoy a meal at specific locations (examples: height of bathroom locks and soap dispensers, the actual slope of the ramp, bars in bathroom stalls, how far back condiments are on counters). It has completely changed my awareness, and now I don't enjoy restaurants that aren't accessible [friendly]!!”*

*-Comment by an Access Nashville student trainee*

### How Access Nashville Training Works

Access Nashville is a college student training project guided by a coalition of volunteers with disabilities and representatives from the business, aging, and disability fields. Access Nashville provides students with classroom training and a classroom follow-up session. Students receive Access Nashville survey tools and are assigned a specific restaurant to survey as a homework assignment. Surveying takes about 15 minutes. The classroom follow-up session is designed to review surveys, answer questions, discuss experiences, and for the staff to gather the surveys and tools. Access Nashville staff then analyze the surveys and assign an accessibility rating of “Wow,” “Good,” or “Limited.” Results are posted on the Nashville Convention and Visitors Bureau and Access Nashville websites based on student volunteer surveys.

### Getting Started

Contact **Carole Moore-Slater**  
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TENNESSEE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

DISABILITY PATHFINDER

VANDERBILT KENNEDY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES