

App Information for Android and iOS Devices

Apps are software applications that can be installed on a mobile device. Many are free and even those that are paid for are usually low-cost. Apps cover all sorts of functions from games to word processing, and a huge number of education apps are available (both Apple and Google offer bulk purchasing for education). Apps are specific to operating systems and are usually downloaded through an online store (the App Store for iOS for example, or Google Play for Android).

Mobile apps can be used to create digital learning environments using the UDL framework. They can offer multiple means of representation, expression and engagement.

There are a huge number of apps available and their availability varies, and different apps will suit different learners even if they perform the same basic function. However, apps in the following categories can be useful for learners with disabilities:

Calendars and Task Lists

Can be particularly beneficial for learners with dyslexia, or difficulty with organization. They can sync with Outlook.

Communication

Many mobile phones and tablets have the facility to make video calls as well as voice calls, often free over a Wi-Fi connection. For learners with little or no speech, there are Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) apps available, which can cost considerably less than dedicated AAC devices.

GPS

Works with mapping applications and allows users to search for directions, or find out more about the area. GPS also powers some augmented reality apps - for example, some apps give an overlay of the night sky with information about the constellations above you at that time.

Notetaking

Apps that allow learners to take notes and store them on a mobile device can be useful for all learners as they can be accessed at a convenient time and place for the learners. Many notetaking apps synchronize across devices, so that learners can always get to the most up-to-date version of their work.

Speech Recognition

Mobile devices can be fiddly to use, particularly if you have motor difficulties or cannot see the screen. Both Android and iOS devices have built-in speech recognition which allow you to use many of the device's functions and dictate messages or emails.

Text-to-Speech

Reads text aloud. For learners with dyslexia or other learning difficulties, or would simply find it more convenient to listen to notes rather than read them.

How to Enable and Use Text to Speech on iPad, iPhone and iPod Touch

You need to enable this function.

1. Launch Settings and tap on 'General'
2. Scroll down to 'Accessibility' and tap on 'Speech' then on 'Speak Selection'
3. Slide to On and adjust the Speaking Rate slider to an appropriate setting

To use it tap and hold on any text until the selector tool comes up. For a single word tap Speak, otherwise to speak everything tap on Select All followed by Speak. This works in iBooks.

Specialized apps

There are apps for specific disabilities available for mainstream mobile devices; for example, an app for iOS devices uses the camera to identify banknotes (useful if you are visually impaired).

Apps for Android and iOS Devices

Android Device

The features we describe should be present on most Android devices running version 4.3 (Jellybean), and possibly on older versions. However, as the Android operating system runs on many devices produced by different manufacturers, the exact features may vary between devices.

Built-in Text-to-Speech: Works with some apps, such as Google Play Books.

Deaf or Hard of Hearing: Version 4.4 allows you to automatically display closed captions in videos that include them. Depending on the device you have, you may be able to set a flashing LED alert for notifications.

Google Assistant: Allows the user to perform many tasks by voice.

Magnification Gestures: Magnification gestures allows you to temporarily magnify what's on your screen.

Talkback: Screen reader which, along with a system called **Explore By Touch**, allows blind and visually impaired users to navigate around and use their phone or tablet. You can also have passwords spoken as you type them.

Voice Access: Great if you have a motor impairment since you don't need to use touch screen. Can be used to access the device's functions and dictate messages, notes or emails.. Use your voice to open apps, navigate, and edit text hands-free.

Select to Speak: If you want spoken feedback only at certain times. Select items on your screen to hear them read or described aloud, or point the camera at something in the real world.

Live Transcribe: Use Live Transcribe to capture speech and view it as text.

Captions: Turn on captions for your device and specify options (language, text, and style) for closed caption.

iOS Device

Apple has added features to specifically help those with visual impairments, including blindness, color blindness, and low vision, with auditory impairments including deafness in one or both ears, physical or motor skill impairments, including limited coordination or range of motion, and learning challenges, including autism and dyslexia.

Dictation: Lets you talk where you would type. Tap microphone button on the keyboard, say what you want to write, and your device converts your words (and numbers and characters) into text.

FaceTime: Video calling service. Make free calls to any other Apple user over Wi-Fi or cellular connection.

Siri: Apple's intelligent assistant, helps you do the things you do every day. All you have to do is ask. Can send messages, place phone calls, schedule meetings, and even turn on and off VoiceOver.

Speak Screen: If you have hard time reading text on your device use Speak Screen to read your email, iMessages, web pages, and books to you.

VoiceOver: A screen reader that let's you know what is happening on your touch screen and helps you to navigate it-even if you can't see it.

Zoom: Built-in magnifier that works whenever you are in iOS, from Mail and Safari to the Home and Lock screens. Works with VoiceOver.

Reminders: Set reminders with the native iOS reminders. Set date and time that an event or task needs to be completed. Simple and easy to use.

Calendar: The iOS calendar allows calendars to sync from different email addresses and accounts on to one calendar. Within each event, users can add locations, set 2 reminders, and write a note about the event, meeting, and assignment due.

iPhone Location Reminder: Set up location reminders based on current location to remind you of something when you reach a specific destination.

✓ Apps commonly used by or recommended to NECC students

Blind and Low Vision



Seeing AI ✓

Free: Talking Camera for the Blind

By Microsoft Corporation

Only available on the App Store for iOS devices.

Seeing AI is a free app that narrates the world around you. Designed for the blind and low vision community, this ongoing research project harnesses the power of AI to open up the visual world and describe nearby people, text, and objects.

Optimized for use with VoiceOver, the app enables you to recognize:

- Short Text – Speaks text as soon as it appears in front of the camera.
- Documents - Provides audio guidance to capture a printed page, and recognizes the text, along with its original formatting.
- Products - Scans barcodes, using audio beeps to guide you; hear the name, and package information when available. (works with iPhone 6 and later)
- People - Saves people's faces so you can recognize them, and get an estimate of their age, gender, and emotions.
- Scenes (early preview) - Hear an overall description of the scene captured.
- Currency - Recognizes currency notes. (Requires iOS 11)
- Color - Identifies color.
- Handwriting - Reads handwritten text.
- Light - Generates an audible tone corresponding to the brightness in the surroundings.



Office Lens

Named one of the "Best Apps of 2015" in the U.S. and Puerto Rico by Google Play!

Office Lens trims, enhances, and makes pictures of whiteboards and documents readable. You can use Office Lens to convert images to PDF, Word and PowerPoint files, and save to OneNote, OneDrive, or your local device.



Actiview

Free: Actiview is the all-in-one app for assistive and accessible content for movies at the theater or in your home! It works everywhere the movie is playing, without any setup required.

Actiview offers all of these accessible services in one easy to use app:

- Audio description
- Amplified audio
- Audio dubs / translation
- Closed captioning
- Multi-language subtitles
- Sign language interpretation

More movies added soon.



AMagnify

Free for Android: Uses your device's camera to zoom in on what it is pointed at. Magnify text, freeze the image you've taken, and invert the magnified image. The paid version removes ads. You will find many magnification apps in the Google Play store. AMagnify is a great choice because it is both extremely simple to use and offers great features.



Be My Eyes – Helping the Blind

Access visual assistance on demand, if you are blind or visually impaired, or lend your eyes to the blind or visually impaired if you are sighted.

Be My Eyes is all about connecting blind or visually impaired with sighted volunteers, to help the blind or visually impaired lead more independent lives.

Benefiting and contributing to the community is easy.



NowNav (Android)

NowNav is a navigation and orientation aid for the blind and visually impaired. It provides turn-by-turn directions and information about your surroundings. NowNav was developed by the blind, for the blind.

Apps for Android and iOS Devices



SoundScape

Microsoft SoundScape uses 3D audio technology to enhance your awareness of what is around you, and thereby help you get around and explore your surroundings.

SoundScape will place audio cues and labels in 3D space such that they sound like they are coming from the direction of the points of interest, parks, roads and other features in your surroundings.



Nearby Explorer Online

Nearby Explorer Online is a GPS app designed for use by people who are blind.



Lazarillo - Accessible GPS

LazarilloApp the GPS for blind and people with low vision, lets you explore the world around you and set up routes. Lazarillo is a specialized GPS app that brings mobility tools for the blind. Using audio messages, Lazarillo will tell you about nearby places, the street you are walking on, street intersections in your way and more! Like a radio, Lazarillo will announce the things around you while you are moving. This app was designed and implemented with active feedback from blind people.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing



Hamilton CapTel

The Hamilton CapTel® App is designed exclusively for individuals who have difficulty hearing over the telephone. With this app, you may listen to your phone conversations while reading word-for-word captions of what's said to you - similar to captions on TV.



ASL Dictionary 52,000 Signs

ASL Sign Language Dictionary. Over 5,200 Signed words in ASL. The most complete ASL American Sign Language Video Dictionary. Translate English into ASL, from A-Z, plus the entire numerical system, common English phrases, symbols and much more.



Padius (iOS devices)

Communication system that allows Deaf and Hard of Hearing people to make phone calls using speech recognition and synthesis technologies. Type your message and Padius will send it to the contact that you choose, using an artificial voice



Actiview: Free

Actiview is the all-in-one app for assistive and accessible content for movies at the theater or in your home! It works everywhere the movie is playing, without any setup required.

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- Multi-language subtitles
- Sign language interpretation



Ava

Acts as a portable translator. An individual who is deaf or hard-of-hearing engaging another person in a conversation just needs to hold the phone up to the person with whom they're speaking, and the application translates the speech into text.

Note Taking and Study Support



OneNote

Digital notebook. Use OneNote as a notebook, journal or a notepad. Organize notes with sections and pages to separate thoughts by theme at school, home or work.



AudioNote ✓

Notepad and voice recorder. Take notes with recorded audio. Combines the functionality of note taking and voice recording to save you time while improving the quality of your notes.

It syncs notes and audio, highlights your text, drawings, and photos during playback. Can add notes later to recording.



Notability ✓

Notetaking, planning/organization, voice recording. Notes can be typed or handwritten with a finger or stylus. Audio recordings sync to a written note or document. Just tap to a place in your notes and the audio will play at that point. Also supports annotation of PDF documents, PowerPoints, Word documents, and has a variety of advanced word processing features.



Flashcards Deluxe

There is a Flashcards Deluxe Lite, which is free, but has a limit of 4 decks and 6 cards per deck.

Easy to use yet powerful flashcard app which you can use to study just about anything. Integration with Quizlet.com where you can browse and download already created study flashcards.



LectureNotes

Handwrite on the screen with a stylus. Allows smooth writing, typing scrolling and zooming.



Evernote ✓

Note taking app designed to collect and organized text, pictures, videos and audio recordings. Write, collect and capture ideas as searchable notes, notebooks, checklists and to-do list. Can be sync with your phone, tablet and computer.



Quizlet ✓

Customizable study tool available in both web and app form. Create customizable sets using terms and definitions relating to virtually any subject.



MyStudyLife

Cross-platform planner for students, teachers, and lecturers designed to make your study life easier to manage. My Study Life allows you to store your classes, homework and exams in the cloud making it available on any device, wherever you are.



Otter Voice Notes (Free and Premium plans)

Otter is a smart note-taking app that empowers you to remember, search, and share your voice conversations. Otter creates smart voice notes that combine audio transcription, speaker identification, inline photos, and key phrases.



Simplenote

Note taking app that focuses on pure, streamlined simplicity. Versions are available for iOS and Android devices, Mac, Windows, Kindle, the web, and Linux. Can also export notes as text documents.



Chegg Prep ✓

Self-study tool you can use to discover, create and share flashcards.



Forest

Productivity app that helps people beat their phone addiction and manage their time in an interesting and pleasant way.

Text to Speech and Speech to Text



Capti Voice ✓

Listen to any content from web pages, printed media, OneDrive, Google Drive, Dropbox, BookShare, or Gutenberg. Features include:
Text-to-speech: turn any text into an audiobook. Save documents and web articles for later in your Playlist.



iTalk

Text to Voice, converts text to voice using the TTS engine of your Android device. This app can be used as an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) device for communication.



NaturalReader Text to Speech – Free

Version ✓

Converts PDF files, MS Word documents, and e-books into spoken words.
Free users can only listen to 100 minutes before interruption.



Read&Write for iPad & Android

Provides customizable text-to-speech.



NaturalReader Text to Speech Pro ✓

Converts PDF files, MS Word documents, and e-books into spoken words.
Provides 2-4 free offline voices and unlimited usage of all functions.



Dragon Mobile Assistant

Voice recognition application. Send and receive text messages, emails and more all hands free.



Voice Dream Reader ✓

World's most accessible reading tool. With advanced text to speech and a highly configurable screen layout, it can be tailored to suit every reading style from completely auditory to completely visual, plus synchronized combination of both.



Dragon Dictation ✓

An easy to use voice recognition application powered by Dragon NaturallySpeaking. Allows you to easily speak and instantly see your text or email messages.

Writing Support Apps



Inspiration Maps ✓

Build beautiful diagrams, graphic organizers and outliners. Free version allows you to create up to five documents to test functionality of the app before having to purchase.



Pages

Apple's word processing solution for the iPhone and iPad, this application will let you write papers, create newsletters and much more.



Read&Write for iPad

Read&Write for iPad is an easy to use alternative keyboard especially created for iPad to make Safari web content accessible.



Read&Write for Android

Read&Write for Android makes writing content accessible. It's great for anyone who needs a little support with their reading and writing. Provides customizable text-to-speech.



Voice Dream Writer

Text-to-speech proofreading reduces mistakes, phonetic and meaning search helps you use the right words, and an active outline helps you organize and improve the structure of your writing.

Apps for Android and iOS Devices



Dictionary.com

Whether you need to look up the definition of a particularly troublesome word, find a suitable synonym or just play around with the English language, this application can help.



Dictionary – Merriam Webster

Dictionary plus it contains synonyms and antonyms, example sentences of words, a word of the day, and a scrolling index that lets you browse the entire dictionary.



Microsoft Word ✓

Has the familiar look, feel, and quality of Office.



Typ-O HD – Writing is for Everybody

Easy to use dyslexia app that helps you write without spelling errors. It uses a powerful word prediction engine and a sophisticated spelling error model to help you write, even if your spelling isn't perfect. It allows you to use the speech recognition tool.



EasyBib: Automatic Bibliography Generator and Citation Machine

Allows you to automatically create citations for your bibliography in seconds.



RefMe – Citations Made Easy

Used to automate citations, reference lists, and bibliographies.

Memory and Organization



Life Reminders - Android

Reminds you of stuff when you tell it to. For instance, if you have to call someone at 11:00AM, the app will remind you and you can tap on the notification to place the call right then.



Brainscape

Brainscape claims you can double your learning speed by using flashcards. Retain knowledge more effectively.



Bubbl.us

Mind Mapping online. Free for limited use \$4.99 monthly for premium. Organize your ideas visually in a way that makes sense to you and others.



MyHomeWork (Student Planner)

For students who have trouble remembering due dates, this application can be a lifesaver. Simply enter in your assignments for each class, and the app will help you track them.



iStudiez Pro

Free Lite version available. Enter standard course details, add instructors, office hours, phone number and email address. Sends reminders and alarms for class time and assignments. Keep track of grades and GPA.



1Password

Remembers all your passwords and other sensitive information. You can store usernames and passwords, credit card information.



Todoist

Easily organize and prioritize your tasks and projects so you'll always know exactly what to work on next.



Qcard – Free 30-day Trial

A life changing app for those living with memory and cognitive impairments. Create Qcards by shaking phone. Receive constant alerts when a Qcard is due so you never miss another reminder. There are 3 color-coded Qcards for visual understanding.

Calming Apps for Persons with Anxiety, Autism, and More



MindShift

Designed to help teens and young adults cope with anxiety.



Smiling Mind

Smiling Mind is modern meditation, a unique web and app-based program developed by psychologists and educators to help bring balance to people's lives.



Headspace

Headspace is the simple way to reframe stress. Sleep trouble? Meditation creates the ideal conditions for a good night's rest. Relax with guided meditations and mindfulness techniques that bring calm, wellness and balance to your life in just a few minutes a day.



Shine

The Shine app is your support system for daily stress and anxiety. Learn a new self-care strategy every day, get support from a diverse community, and explore an audio library of over 500+ original meditation, bedtime stories, and ambient music to help you shift your mindset or mood.



Aura

Reduce stress and anxiety, improve focus, and sleep better using daily mindfulness meditation, life coaching, stories, and more. All personalized to you based on your mood. Aura learns about you by asking questions.



Relax Melodies: Sleep Sounds

Select sounds and melodies that you like, combine them and adjust the volume of each sound to create a mix. Add one of our meditations specially designed for sleep, lay back, listen, and enjoy falling asleep.



Stop, Breathe & Think

Helps you find peace anywhere. It allows you to check in with your emotions, and recommends short guided meditations, yoga and acupressure videos, tuned to how you feel.



BoosterBuddy

Manage your personal wellness journey and earn achievements as your sidekick guides you through a series of daily quests designed to establish and sustain positive habits.



Calm

Calm is the #1 app for mindfulness and meditation to bring more clarity, joy and peace to your daily life. Calm is the perfect meditation app for beginners, but also includes hundreds of programs for intermediate and advanced users.



Breathe (has visual cues for meditation)

Screen pulses to guide your breath and provide a point of focus. Face the screen towards the ceiling and allow the pulses to guide you to sleep without disturbing others.



Happify

Self-improvement program offered in both website and app form. Activities and games that can help reduce stress, overcome negative thoughts, and build greater resilience by providing effective tools and programs to improve emotional well-being.

NOTE: Information online stated there isn't really a dedicated app for deaf people when it comes to guided meditations, but hoping that will change. In the meantime, YouTube has a lot of content which deaf people can utilize and read, rather than listen, in order to achieve a more mindful experience in life.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrpJkwaukIA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNXKjGFUIMs>

Miscellaneous Apps



RateMyProfessors

Have a great professor? Stuck with a lousy one? Let other students know about your experience through this handy application version of the popular online site.



TextGrabber + Translator

Easily and quickly scans, translates and saves your chosen text from virtually any printed material. Simply take a picture of the text and immediately edit, hear it spoken aloud via VoiceOver.



Google Play Books

Can upload EPUB and PDF files to your library.



Fast Scanner

With this app, you can scan notes, documents, and receipts into PDF documents by taking a photo.



Kindle

Read books, textbooks, magazines, and other kinds of print media right on your Android phone or tablet.



iBooks ✓

iBooks is an e-book application. The supported e-book formats are EPUB and PDF. Can transfer PDFs to iBooks using Dropbox. Can use text-to-speech feature.



Dropbox ✓

Dropbox is a place for your photos, docs, videos, and other files. Send a large file to anyone, even if they don't have a Dropbox account.



EduCalc Classic

A powerful, flexible graphing calculator.



RealCalc Scientific Calculator

Use RealCalc for serious computing — it's a perfect alternative for the calculator-less. If you need a heavy-duty upgrade, try RealCalc Plus for \$3.49.



EquatIO ✓

Supports creation of complex mathematical equations into word processing documents.