



F2021-R5 – Paulina Diaz Resolution

WHEREAS, the University of North Texas policy states “Discrimination and harassment are violations of this policy and will not be tolerated. The University of North Texas prohibits discrimination and harassment against any student, employee, or applicant because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities.”¹

WHEREAS, the University of North Texas policy states “UNT does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission, treatment, or access to its programs or activities, nor in employment in its programs or activities. The University is committed to providing equal educational access for qualified students with disabilities in accordance with state and federal laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as Amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. In addition, the University is committed to making all programs and activities sponsored by UNT accessible, as required by the Texas Accessibility Standards and the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines. To this end, all academic units are willing to make reasonable and appropriate adjustments to the classroom environment and the teaching, testing, or learning methodologies in order to facilitate equality of educational access for persons with disabilities.”²

WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in employment, state and local government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities, and transportation. Title II of the act requires that all state and local governments give people with disabilities equal opportunity to benefit from all programs, services, and activities (e.g. public education, employment, transportation, recreation, healthcare, social services, town meetings, etc.). They are required to be able to communicate effectively with people who have hearing, vision, or speech disabilities.³

WHEREAS, the Braille Authority of North America states in the Braille Signage Guidelines (April, 2014) that “braille shall be positioned below the corresponding text. If text is multi-lined, braille shall be placed below the entire text. Braille shall be separated 3/8 inch (9.5 mm) minimum from any other tactile characters and 3/8 inch (9.5 mm) minimum from raised borders and decorative elements”.⁴

WHEREAS, several building on UNT's campus contain braille that is either missing, or in the incorrect place (to the side) on their room plaques. This includes, but is not limited to, the Music Building, the Music Annex, Bain Hall, Crumley Hall, Eagle Students Services, Willis Library, Hurley Admin Building, Language Building, and others.⁵

WHEREAS, College of Music student Paulina Diaz, who is blind, has found it needlessly difficult to navigate certain buildings, including the Music Building and the Music Annex, which she is in daily, due to the incorrect braille placement.

LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the UNT Facilities Department perform an audit of all UNT building and facilities and the status of the braille present on all signage.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, all current UNT buildings bearing room plaques with incorrect braille or lack thereof, be replaced with new plaques containing the correct braille. This includes but is not limited to classrooms, bathrooms, offices, performance spaces, etc.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, all future UNT buildings be fitted with room plaques containing correct braille in the correct placement according to the ADA and Braille Authority of North America Guidelines.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, this resolution be sent to the following parties:

- Dr. Neal Smatresk, UNT President
- Dr. Elizabeth With, UNT Vice-President for Student Affairs
- Maria Angel, Senior Design Specialist
- Becca Icossipentarhos, Senior Design Specialist, TAS/ADA Coordinator
- Helen Bailey, Planning, Design, & Construction
- Neeley Shirley, Facilities Planner, Campus Planning
- Devin Axtman, Student Services Coordinator, Office of Disability Access
- Thanh Ngyuen, Sr. Facilities Planning Manager
- Joanne Woodard, Vice-President for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Beige Cowell

College of Music

References:

1. <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/16-004>
2. <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/16-001>
3. https://www.ada.gov/2010_regs.htm
4. Appendix A

5. Appendix B

In Witness thereof, I hereby certify the Student Senate of the University of North Texas Student Government Association has approved this document and is referred to the office of the President.

David Murray Sanders
Speaker of the Senate

10/20/21
Date

Presidential Action:

- Vetoed
- Approved

[Signature]
President of the Student Government Association

10/20/21
Date

[Signature]
Vice President of Student Affairs

11.2.2021
Date



Appendices

Appendix A (Braille Authority of North America Braille Signage Guidelines):



Braille Signage Guidelines

Approved April 2014

The U.S. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines require the use of braille signage to ensure that people who cannot see to read print may safely access and use a building. This brochure is designed to provide basic guidelines about braille to assist with the production of braille signage. Resources for further assistance are also provided.

People who are blind or visually impaired benefit from braille signs that are placed in convenient and predictable locations. In addition, the braille should be presented horizontally and clear of the sign's edge, unobscured by the frame. Regulations requiring braille on signs have led to an increased presence of braille information in public areas, raising the expectation that braille will be provided in other useful contexts.

What Is Braille?

Braille is a system of touch reading and writing in which the alphabet is represented by the arrangement of six dots in a space called a cell.

- A full cell is three dots high and two dots wide.
- The six dots of the cell are numbered 1, 2, 3 downward on the left and 4, 5, 6, downward on the right.
- A braille character may stand for a single letter of the alphabet, a whole word, a digit, a punctuation mark, or other symbols.
- Only 63 different dot combinations can be formed. The meaning and use of the dot combinations that make up braille characters in North American English follows standard codes defined by the Braille Authority of North America (BANA).
- English braille is read from left to right and top to bottom, the same way English print is read.

- The size of braille characters does not vary. For more information, see the BANA factsheet *Size and Spacing of Braille* at www.brailleauthority.org/sizespacingofbraille.

The Braille Alphabet

⠁	⠃	⠉	⠇	⠑	⠋	⠏	⠎	⠞	⠚
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j
⠅	⠇	⠍	⠏	⠕	⠋	⠏	⠎	⠞	⠚
k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t
⠩	⠬	⠮	⠲	⠴	⠶				
u	v	w	x	y	z				

Contracted and Uncontracted Braille

For general text, the current braille code in the U. S. and Canada is Unified English Braille and contracted. (UEB). Text brailled in this code can be contracted or uncontracted.

Uncontracted braille communicates text using one braille character for each letter of the English alphabet, punctuation, or number. Indicators special to braille—such as the capital letter indicator and the numeric indicator—are also used. For example the word “stairs” in uncontracted braille would use one braille character for each letter, as presented below.

stairs ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

In the example, which uses simulated braille, the heavy dots represent raised dots while the “shadow dots” represent the unused dots in the six-position configuration.

Contracted braille refers to combinations of the alphabet and symbols to represent words that appear frequently in the English language. It is preferred over spelling out words letter by letter and, thus, it is the most commonly used form of English braille.

- English braille has 180 contractions and shortform words.
- In the United States and Canada, contracted braille is routinely used for most books and magazines.

- The U.S. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines require the use of contracted braille on signage.

Capitalization

In braille, the first word of sentences, proper nouns and names, individual letters, initials, and/or acronyms are capitalized.

A capital indicator is formed when a single braille dot in the lower right-hand corner (dot 6) of the braille cell is placed before the letters a-z. Capitalization is not required on braille signage.

If all the letters in the word are to be capitalized, a capital word indicator—two single-dot characters in sequence—indicates that all the letters in the following word are capitalized.

To show that three or more words are fully capitalized, place three dot 6 characters before the first word, and place a dot 6 followed by a dot 3 after the last fully capitalized word.

Example: Word with initial cap

Pratt Room ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Example: Word in all caps

NLS Director ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Example: Three or more words in all caps

NLS EMPLOYEES ONLY ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Numbers

Braille digits 1-0 are formed by placing the numeric indicator, dots 3-4-5-6, before letters a-j.

The Braille Numbers

⠠⠠	⠠⠠	⠠⠠	⠠⠠	⠠⠠	⠠⠠	⠠⠠	⠠⠠	⠠⠠	⠠⠠
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0

- A space, hyphen, and slash all terminate the effect of a numeric indicator.

- Distance between corresponding dots in adjacent cells²: 0.241 (6.1 mm) to 0.300 (7.6 mm)
- Dot height: 0.025 (0.6 mm) to 0.037 (0.9 mm)
- Distance between corresponding dots from one cell directly below³: 0.395 (10 mm) to 0.400 (10.2 mm)

Braille shall be positioned below the corresponding text. If text is multi-lined, braille shall be placed below the entire text. Braille shall be separated 3/8 inch (9.5 mm) minimum from any other tactile characters and 3/8 inch (9.5 mm) minimum from raised borders and decorative elements.

Exception: Braille provided on elevator car controls shall be separated 3/16 inch (4.8 mm) minimum and shall be located either directly below or adjacent to the corresponding raised characters or symbols.

Foreign Language Code

When transcribing foreign languages, consideration must be given to the country of origin. The code for transcribing any language, including English, depends on the prevailing language and the country in which the document is written. For example, Spanish braille is somewhat different when it is written in the United States, Mexico, England, or Spain. Commercial braille translation software is available for the proper generation of braille in a wide variety of languages and contexts.

Braille Translation and Proofreading

Good braille copy for signs can be produced with commercial translation software that generates braille text and a suitable font that controls dot sizing and spacing. Although errors are infrequent when using such software, complete accuracy in every circumstance cannot be guaranteed. Therefore, braille copy should be proofread by qualified persons who know braille codes, and final sizing and spacing should be checked. Specialized braille-production services have the capacity to produce final braille copy.

² Ibid

³ Ibid

Resources

American Council of the Blind
2200 Wilson Blvd., Suite 650
Arlington, VA 22201
(202)467-5081, 800-424-8666
Fax: (703) 465-5085
www.acb.org

American Foundation for the Blind
Information Center
2 Penn Plaza, Suite 1102
New York, NY 10121
(212)502-5658, 800-232-5463
Fax: (646) 478-9555
www.afb.org

Braille Authority of North America
www.brailleauthority.org

CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind)
National Coordinator, Braille Production
1929 Bayview Avenue
Toronto ON
M4G 3E8
Canada
www.cnib.ca

Library of Congress
National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
1291 Taylor Street, NW
Washington, DC 20542
(202) 707-5100, 800-424-8567
www.loc.gov/nls

National Federation of the Blind
200 E. Wells Street at Jernigan Place
Baltimore, MD 21230
(410) 659-9314
Fax: (410) 685-5653
www.nfb.org

United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001
www.usdoj.gov

This fact sheet distributed by The Braille Authority of North America
www.brailleauthority.org

For more information about the Braille Authority of North America (BANA) and
Unified English Braille (UEB), visit www.brailleauthority.org.

Appendix B (Example of Incorrect Braille Placement on a UNT Sign):

