OUR PROGRAM

The Master of Science in Accessible Human-Centered Computing (AHCC) is designed for deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing individuals seeking specialized academic training. AHCC students learn to create, evaluate, and implement effective, evidence-based accessible design, as well as evaluation strategies and messages to address the accessibility needs of diverse audiences.

AHCC coursework recognizes that computing is pervasive in the 21st century, with access to computing for people with disabilities being a key part of enabling community participation and access to the labor market. The courses impart the following principles:

- A diverse and inclusive workforce will result in a more effective and innovative organization. The confluence of the computing and inclusion trends has resulted in heightened attention and scrutiny on how computing helps diversity and inclusion.
- Laws and regulations in the United States (e.g., the ADA, Section 508), as well as companies, recognize that people with disabilities constitute a key demographic that cannot be excluded from computing products and services.
- Knowledge of accessible design and methods is fundamental to providing accessible computing.

Students will be exposed to Gallaudet University's unique expertise in accessible computing through a deaf and hard of hearing-centric lens. They will gain practical hands-on experience in accessible design through coursework, as well as participating in ongoing accessible research and development projects. Graduates of the program will be prepared for a variety of positions related to accessibility or information technology in corporations, federal agencies, and non-profit organizations.

START YOUR ONLINE APPLICATION TODAY

gu.live/apply

FEB 15 Date of First Consideration

For more information about the program, visit **gu.live/GradAHCC**

Questions about the program?

Contact the co-directors Dr. Raja Kushalnagar and Dr. Christian Vogler at ahcc@gallaudet.edu

Questions about the application process?

Contact the Graduate Admissions Office graduate@gallaudet.edu

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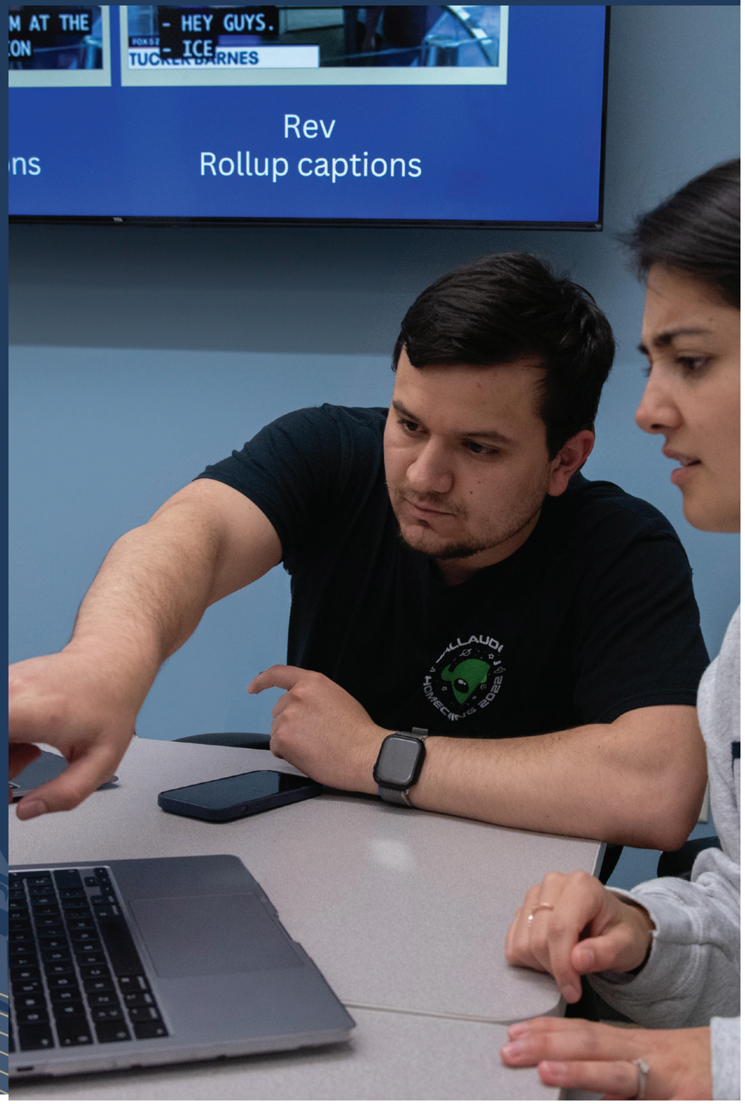
Master of Science in Accessible Human-Centered Computing



STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will learn to design, evaluate, and implement effective, evidence-based accessible design, evaluation strategies, and messages to address the accessibility needs of diverse audiences, through accessible design and methods.

Upon graduation, AHCC graduates will possess the knowledge and expertise to:

- communicate effectively with a range of audiences using both written English and American Sign Language.
- analyze an accessibility problem; identify and define the accessibility requirements, usability specifications, and/or policy requirements appropriate to its solution.
- design, implement, and evaluate accessibility in a system, process, component, or program.
- collaborate effectively on teams to accomplish a common goal.
- demonstrate understanding of the deaf, hard of hearing, and DeafDisabled target audiences and how to engage with them using accessible design.
- recognize the importance of professional, ethical, legal, security, inclusion, and social issues, and adhere to the best practices of the accessibility profession.

Much of the instruction in this program will be interactive and will include the use of new and emerging accessible technologies, making students well-prepared to meet the organizational demands for accessible technology. The program will be structured in terms of cohorts - students progress through the program as a group.

This format not only ensures on-time program completion, but also maximizes interaction with faculty and fellow students. Additionally, industry experts will offer support and advice to the learning support community, along with internship opportunities.

OUR PROGRAM FACULTY AND RESOURCES

AHCC's cutting-edge mission is supported through access to research labs under the Technology Access Program and the the Undergraduate Information Technology major, which are supported by multiple large grants and federal contracts. AHCC also trains around 20 undergraduate and 3 graduate students on various accessible computing projects annually.

SCAN HERE TO SEE OUR FACULTY AND STAFF

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

There are more than 4,000 accessible technologies for people with disabilities. All private organizations must follow ADA law for online access; current guidelines call for following Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) standards, and most organizations usually hire Accessibility Specialists or related positions. Similarly, federal organizations and contractors must follow Section 508 guidelines – and most organizations have 508 Compliance Specialists and related positions.

Graduates of the program will be prepared for a variety of positions, including those in accessibility or information technology in industry, federal agencies, and non-profit organizations. Some graduates will work in the information technology divisions of private, federal, or state organizations to provide technical support and maintenance. Other graduates will work in human resources or policy divisions to provide training, compliance, and support. Regardless of which division they work in, they are expected to use their skills in supplying accessible technology through information gathering, user-centered design, and effective deployment/communication practices.

DIVERSITY AND EQUITY THROUGH ACCESSIBILITY

The four pillars of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) have become a core philosophy recognized by the Federal Executive Branch. As the most recent addition, the contributions of Accessibility to DEIA are less well understood and developed than the other pillars.

The AHCC curriculum advances the understanding that accessibility is as important as the other pillars, and shows how diversity, equity, and inclusion can be substantially strengthened through accessibility.

Joining the Accessible Human-Centered Computing (AHCC) M.S. program at Gallaudet University was one of the best decisions in my life. Through the program, I got hands-on experience as a graduate research assistant, and traveled to conferences and workshops representing Gallaudet. I also gained crucial knowledge about accessibility laws and standards, human-computer interaction, UI/UX design, and how to advocate for improved accessibility in technology.

Molly Feanny, '22, G-'24
Canada

Growing up in Cameroon, pursuing a career in technology or medicine seemed impossible, especially as a deaf individual in a place with limited opportunities. Everything changed when I came to the United States and started my journey at Gallaudet. The faculty and my classmates were incredibly supportive, always guiding me and encouraging me, even when I had doubts. Now, with a job offer from a Fortune 500 company in hand, I am truly grateful for how far I have come.

Alison Nana, G-'24
New York