

Making your Canvas Course Site ADA-Compliant

MARCH 19, 2019

Web Accessibility – Basics

Commonly used items that might create barriers for students with disabilities include:

- Tables used for formatting purposes
- Color (poor choice of text and background colors)
- Images missing alternative text description
- Multimedia that lacks captioning and/or text description

Whether or not you have students with disabilities in your class is irrelevant; all materials must be made accessible. This is Federal Law and a Title 5 requirement. Accreditors also check for accessibility.

Everything you need to know is in the [Web Accessibility course](#) in Canvas. The [Web Accessibility site](#) on the LPC Online Learning site is also helpful.

Web Accessibility – Canvas

Styles

- Use styles, numbered and bullet lists in Rich Content Editor. Don't use color for meaning.
- Tables take extra work

Alt text for images

- Can be a phrase or even 2-3 sentences
- Don't copy text that students are reading and paste it in as alt text
- Don't begin your alt text with "Image of ..." Screen reader will already say that
- Don't use the filename of the image as the alt text, particularly because it includes file extensions (.jpg, .gif, .png)
- If your image contains text, make sure to include those same words as alt text

Explanatory links

- Don't use [click here](#)
- Don't use web addresses as links (e.g. <http://bit.ly/1YixxIB>)
- Don't underline text if it's not a link

Rich Content Editor accessibility checker and Decorative Image box

Web Accessibility – Word, PowerPoint

Use tabs, not spaces, to move around words.

Use PowerPoint templates; give each slide a unique title

Clean up reading order in PPT: Home tab, click Select in the Editing group, and choose Selection Pane.

Convert to accessible PDFs, then upload.

Include a link to the free Acrobat Reader in your course.

The easiest way to ensure accessibility is to type or paste directly into Canvas' Rich Content Editor and NOT use Word or PowerPoint at all.

[Converting a Word document to an accessible PDF](#)

[Converting a PowerPoint presentation to an accessible PDF](#)

Web Accessibility – Captioning

You can caption videos yourself.

You can use YouTube's automaticcaptioner, but it is flawed.

Best option: Use the 3C Media Solutions app in Canvas. You can also use the [3C Media Solutions](#) web site.

Web Accessibility – Misc.

ConferZoom: Can request a captioner 5 days ahead of time if you have a deaf student.

Don't set multimedia to auto-play.

Don't use flashing content.

All apps and external web sites have to be accessible.

Be careful using publisher content.

Use the CCC's [Accessibility Center Help Desk](#).