

ADA Compliance Inside and Outside of the Virtual Classroom

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Introduction



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Published 7 peer-reviewed articles on
ADA and web accessibility since 2018.

Over 30 presentations focused on ADA
and web accessibility since 2018.

All articles available upon request.

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COVID-19 and People with Disabilities

Helping students with special needs cope and learn during COVID-19 pandemic

Maine teacher offers helpful tips for parents of kids with special needs amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Author: Elle Ousfar (NEWS CENTER Maine)
Published: 2:11 PM EDT March 23, 2020
Updated: 2:11 PM EDT March 23, 2020

COVID-19 pandemic puts children with disabilities at significant risk

By Ellen Goldbaum

The coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak leaves people with disabilities among the most at risk

By Nicolas Perpitch

Updated 19 Mar 2020, 6:12pm

Is online school illegal? With schools closing from coronavirus, special education concerns give districts pause

Erin Richards USA TODAY

Published 7:00 a.m. ET Mar. 19, 2020 | Updated 1:00 p.m. ET Mar. 19, 2020

Young and Healthy?: Chronically Ill and Disabled Students Grapple with COVID-19

By Tamara Kamis

People With Disabilities Bear Brunt Of Challenges Posed By COVID-19

By PAUL FLAHIVE • MAR 24, 2020



ADA Protections in Higher Education

- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA):
 - Postsecondary “qualified students” = student with a disability who meets the academic and technical standards requisite for admission or participation.
 - Postsecondary schools = “required to provide students with appropriate academic adjustments and auxiliary aids and services that are necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in a school's program.”
 - Postsecondary schools = NOT required to make adjustments or provide aids or services that would result in a “fundamental alteration of a recipient's program or impose an undue burden.”
- What this means?
 - FAPE is not defined or applied in postsecondary settings.
 - “Academic adjustments and auxiliary aids” are the extent of what institutions are ADA-obligated to provide.

Seeking Access on Institutional Websites

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Texas McCombs School of Business. At the top right, the 'TEXAS McCombs' logo is displayed. Below it, the 'The University of Texas at Austin McCombs School of Business' logo is on the left, and a navigation menu is in the center. The menu items are: Programs & Academics, Faculty & Research, Executive Education, Centers & Initiatives, About McCombs, Recruiters & Corporations, and Alumni. A search bar with the placeholder text 'Search Keyword' is located on the right side of the navigation bar. The main content area features a large banner image of a globe with a network of blue nodes and lines. To the right of the image, the text reads: 'McCombs School of Business', 'Innovation Unleashed', and 'McCombs Part of \$50M Blockchain Research Program Launched by Ripple.' Below the banner is an orange 'DEAN'S REPORT' button. At the bottom left, there is a 'McCombs in the News' section with a link to 'McCombs Newsroom' and three news items: 'AARP Married? Both Partners Need Money Skills', 'Bloomberg VIX Faces Probes With Controversial Auction at Issue', and 'The Wall Street Journal Minimalism is Overrated: How I Learned to Love a Little Clutter'. At the bottom right, there is an 'Upcoming Events' section with a link to 'View full event calendar' and three events: 'June 5th, 2018 Austin Chapter Workshop: The Retirement Wealth Academy', 'June 6th, 2018 Full-Time MBA Coffee Chat with a Student - Atlanta', and 'June 12th, 2018 Evening MBA Connect'.

TEXAS McCombs

The University of Texas at Austin
McCombs School of Business

Programs & Academics | Faculty & Research | Executive Education | Centers & Initiatives | About McCombs | Recruiters & Corporations | Alumni

Search Keyword

McCombs School of Business
Innovation Unleashed
McCombs Part of \$50M Blockchain Research Program Launched by Ripple.

DEAN'S REPORT

McCombs in the News [McCombs Newsroom](#)

AARP
Married? Both Partners Need Money Skills

Bloomberg
VIX Faces Probes With Controversial Auction at Issue

The Wall Street Journal
Minimalism is Overrated: How I Learned to Love a Little Clutter

Upcoming Events [View full event calendar](#)

June 5th, 2018
Austin Chapter Workshop: The Retirement Wealth Academy

June 6th, 2018
Full-Time MBA Coffee Chat with a Student - Atlanta

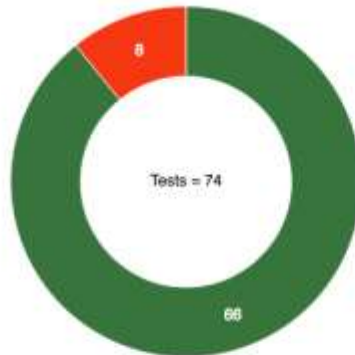
June 12th, 2018
Evening MBA Connect

ADA Noncompliance

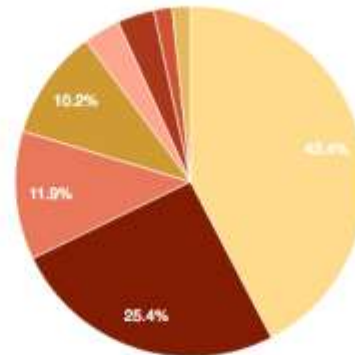
59 issues found for
[https://www.mcombs.utexas...](https://www.mcombs.utexas.edu)

Processed in 2.60sec
Screen Size: 1024w x 768h
Page size: 127kb

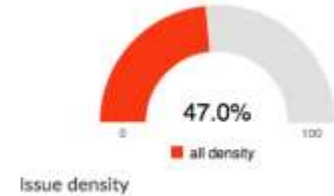
Download CSV



Failed vs passed tests



Percentage Issues per criteria for this page



Error

Description

```
<button class="header-search-button" id="SearchDesktopGo" onclick="performsearch('searchdesktopterm')>Submit Search</button>
```

Test ID 82

Error / priority 100%

This button is empty.

(line: 1451, 29)

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0, Level AA: 2.4.6 Headings and Labels

This button has no text within it. People who use assistive technologies like voice-dictation software will not be able to refer to the button by name, and users of screen readers will not have any information about this button's purpose.

Recommended Fix

Seeking Access on Institutional Websites

The screenshot shows the website for the University of Texas at Austin, McCombs School of Business. The top navigation bar includes links for Programs & Academics, Faculty & Research, Executive Education, Centers & Initiatives, About McCombs, Recruiters & Corporations, and Alumni. A search bar is highlighted with a red box and labeled "Search Keyword". Below the search bar, a news item titled "Innovation Unleashed" is highlighted with a red arrow pointing to it. The news item text reads: "McCombs School of Business Innovation Unleashed McCombs Part of \$50M Blockchain Research Program Launched by Ripple." Below the news item, there are sections for "McCombs in the News" and "Upcoming Events".

TEXAS McCombs

The University of Texas at Austin
McCombs School of Business

Programs & Academics | Faculty & Research | Executive Education | Centers & Initiatives | About McCombs | Recruiters & Corporations | Alumni

Search Keyword

McCombs School of Business
Innovation Unleashed
McCombs Part of \$50M Blockchain Research Program Launched by Ripple.

DEAN'S REPORT

McCombs in the News [McCombs Newsroom](#)

AARP
Married? Both Partners Need Money Skills

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VIX Faces Probes With Controversial Auction at Issue

The Wall Street Journal
Minimalism Is Overrated: How I Learned to Love a Little Clutter

Upcoming Events [View full event calendar](#)

June 5th, 2018
Austin Chapter Workshop: The Retirement Wealth Academy

June 6th, 2018
Full-Time MBA Coffee Chat with a Student - Atlanta

June 12th, 2018
Evening MBA Connect

This webpage item has no text data.



What is Web Accessibility?

- Websites and web tools properly designed and coded to be used by people with disabilities (future/current students/staff).
- Making the web “accessible.”
 - [Source: W3 – Web Accessibility Initiative](#)
- WCAG 2.0: **W**eb **C**ontent **A**ccessibility **G**uidelines.
 - Published by the Web Accessibility Initiative ([source](#))
- A wide range of recommendations to make websites more accessible for people with disabilities.
- [Adopted as standard of web accessibility by U.S. Congress.](#)

W3.org and WCAG Standards

How to Meet WCAG 2 (Quick Reference)



A customizable quick reference to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2 requirements (success criteria) and techniques. [Show About, How to Use & Preferences](#)

Selected Filters: **WCAG 2.1:** all success criteria and all techniques. [Clear filters](#) [Expand all sections](#) [Share](#)

1. Perceivable

- 1.1 Text Alternatives
 - 1.1.1 Non-text Content
- 1.2 Time-based Media
 - 1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded)
 - 1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded)
 - 1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded)
 - 1.2.4 Captions (Live)
 - 1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded)
 - 1.2.6 Sign Language (Prerecorded)
 - 1.2.7 Extended Audio Description (Prerecorded)
 - 1.2.8 Media Alternative (Prerecorded)
 - 1.2.9 Audio-only (Live)
- 1.3 Adaptable

Principle 1 – Perceivable

Information and user interface components must be presentable to users in ways they can perceive.

Guideline 1.1 – Text Alternatives

Provide text alternatives for any non-text content so that it can be changed into other forms people need, such as large print, braille, speech, symbols or simpler language.

[Show techniques and failures for 1.1](#)

1.1.1 Non-text Content — Level A

All non-text content that is presented to the user has a text alternative that serves the equivalent purpose, except for the situations listed below. [Show full description](#) [Understanding 1.1.1](#)

[Show techniques and failures for 1.1.1](#)

[SHARE](#) | [BACK TO TOP](#)

Guideline 1.2 – Time-based Media

- Official W3 WCAG Overview Website:
<https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/wcag/>



Renewed Emphasis on ADA

- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits educational discrimination against people with disabilities.
- Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973:
 - **Amended on January 18th, 2018.**
 - Requires all Title IV higher education institutions to publish level-AA WCAG 2.0 compliant websites, technology, and training resources ([source](#)).
 - Websites and digital communication must be web accessible for people with disabilities.
 - Why now?



Ethical, Legal Costs of ADA Noncompliance

College Websites Must Accommodate Disabled Students, Lawsuits Say



Hofstra University on Long Island is one of eight New York colleges named in lawsuits because, the suits say, their websites are inaccessible to the plaintiff, who is blind, and therefore in violation of the Americans With Disabilities Act. George Edwards for The New York Times

50 Colleges Hit With ADA Lawsuits

A blind man is taking 50 colleges to court, alleging their websites are inaccessible to people with disabilities.

By [Lindsay McKenzie](#)

// December 10, 2018

22 COMMENTS



ON CAMPUS

Provost: Syracuse University to remediate 'significant portion' of web presence to improve accessibility

Harvard Accessibility Lawsuit Moves Forward

By [Carl Drusmahain](#) // February 23, 2016

7 COMMENTS

A judge in a federal district court in Massachusetts has **allowed** an accessibility lawsuit against Harvard University to proceed. The National Association of the Deaf last year **sued** Harvard over online content rendered inaccessible for learners with disabilities due to a lack of closed captions. Harvard had sought to dismiss or stay the lawsuit until the U.S. Department of Justice issued new rules on how the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 applies to websites, but the court dismissed that motion, saying that such a decision could keep the plaintiffs waiting for years.





The New Normal





Accessible Websites/Student LMS

- Big Picture Issues:
 - Talk to your institution's website developer about web accessibility—are they aware? Professional development?
 - For example: Is your institution's color scheme compliant?
 - Know who can edit and upload documents to your LMS?—how many chefs are in the kitchen? How many are aware of web accessibility?
 - For example: my own survey methods Canvas site had 13 students with upload access.
 - Trim the fat—are there old, dated webpages that could be removed from your website? How do you know?
 - For example: Canvas sites can be copy/pasted from year to year—how much old content is there?



Accessible Websites

- The Day-to-Day (Immediately Actionable):
 - Be sure to define the website's language (ex: en=English)
 - Use a simple, readable, common font (Verdana is most web accessible—used for this presentation.)
 - Use strong color contrast—light on dark, dark on light.
 - Add alt text to pictures and closed captions to videos.
 - Give hyperlinks informative titles—folks should know what happens when you click anywhere on your website.
 - Understand heading sizes and don't skip them. All pages should have 1 heading at level 1—next heading = level 2.

Distance Technology: Zoom

- Launched 2011
- Available on nearly all devices (Windows, Mac, iPhone, and Android).
- Requires a download, no account; can phone in.
- Free for up to 100 participants for 40 minutes (no time limit for 2 participants).
- Embeds into online learning modules (Blackboard, Canvas, Sakai).
- Over 200m users (April 2020)



Zoom Accessibility

- Zoom published a self audit of ADA compliance here:
<https://zoom.us/docs/doc/vpat/Zoom%20Product%20Web%20Pages%20VPAT.pdf>
- Closed captioning is not an automated, built-in feature of Zoom.
 - <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/207279736-closed-captioning>
 - You can have the host type closed captions
 - Or you can integrate a third-party app
 - <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/115002212983> – this requires a bit more tech savvy.



Distance Technology: Panopto

- Launched 2007
- Available on nearly all devices (Windows, Mac, iPhone, and Android).
- Free trial, then paid subscriptions.
- Emerging as popular education platform at major universities; excellent for web accessibility.
- 500 institutional clients (2019)
- <https://www.panopto.com/features/video-cms/accessibility/> - fully Section 504 and 508 compliant





Web Accessibility: Fonts

- The font used in this presentation is Verdana.
- It is a highly web accessible font and widely used (compatible with many different software programs).
- Verdana features serifs (feet) that make the font very readable.
- For example:
 - Illegal activity is frowned upon. (Verdana)
 - Illegal activity is frowned upon. (Arial)
 - **Illegal activity is frowned upon. (Haettenschweiler)**

Accessibility: Font Size and Color Contrast

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.pdx.edu/finaid/home>. The page features a navigation bar with four buttons: "Start Here", "Apply for Financial Aid", "Log In", and "Manage Your Application". Below the navigation bar, there are three main content areas: "News", "Events", and "Profile".

Start Here **Apply for Financial Aid**

Log In **Manage Your Application**

News

Brenda Eichelberger, Business faculty; Heather Mattioli, Financial Aid; and Rachel Foxhoven, International Business Programs, co-authored an article, "Uncovering Barriers to Financial Capability: Underrepresented Students' Access to Financial Resources," »

Student transaction offices moving to trailers during Neuberger construction »

2016 PSU Student Food Security Survey Launched »

[go to news](#)

Events


Sunday, Mar 24
Odyssey Works: Experience Design Intensive »

Sunday, Mar 24
Musical: We Met in Moscow »

Tuesday, Mar 26
Taxation Programs Webinar »

[go to events](#)

Profile



Jay Fortenberry »
Instructor. Jay Fortenberry is a cash to cash cycle expert, teacher, mentor and author.

[go to profiles](#)

© 2019 [Give to PSU](#) | [PSU FAQs](#) | [Contact PSU](#) | [Careers at PSU](#) | [Find People](#) | [Maps/Directions](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [PSU Sitemap](#)

Writing ADA Compliant Syllabi

- When writing syllabi:
 - Use Word—the newest 365 update has lots of accessibility features.
 - Prioritize text—screen readers/text recognition technologies work across many devices (phones, tablets, computers).
 - Use a simple, readable, common font.
 - Use strong color contrast.
 - Add informative alt text to pictures →
 - “A picture of two college students walking on campus. They are wearing backpacks and talking to each other.”
 - Avoid lots of hyperlinks—if serving an educational purpose, it must be ADA compliant.
 - Add informative alt text to hyperlinks.
 - <https://www.trelliscompany.org/research/>
 - “If you click this link, you will be directed to the Trellis Company research website.”





Writing ADA Compliant Learning Materials

- When creating files:
 - Use the web accessibility features built into PowerPoint, Word, and Adobe software.
 - [Microsoft PowerPoint](#)
 - [Microsoft Word](#)
 - [Adobe software](#)
 - Use a simple, readable, common font.
 - Use strong color contrast.
 - Add informative alt text to pictures and hyperlinks.
 - A lot of learning materials are shared (e.g., PDFs, listserv materials)—who made the materials and are they web accessible?
 - Think syllabi, class handouts, campus flyers, etc.
 - A lot of shared resources may be linked to other websites—are these websites accessible?
 - Scans are NOT ADA compliant in most cases—find the native PDF or plain text version of the file.
 - Videos must be closed captioned (Powerpoint can do this).

Questions and Web Accessibility Resources



- Department of Education guidance on Section 504 Compliance: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/504faq.html>
- WCAG Quick Reference Guide: <https://www.w3.org/WAI/WCAG21/quickref/>
- Microsoft Windows accessibility resources: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/accessibility/windows>
- Mac users: hold COMMAND+F5 = runs Voiceover accessibility software
- Windows users: hold WINDOWS+CTRL+ENTER = runs Narrator accessibility software
- Resources: www.tenon.io, <https://achecker.ca/checker/index.php>
- Defining website language: <http://evengrounds.com/developers/defining-the-language-of-your-web-page>
- Adobe Accessibility: <https://www.adobe.com/accessibility/products/acrobat.html>
- WebAIM font guide: <https://webaim.org/techniques/fonts/>
- Penn State color contrast guide: <http://accessibility.psu.edu/color/contrasthtml/>



Proven Services.
Extraordinary Support.