Accessibility Resources

This page contains information and resources on accessibility in distance education, and applicable laws, policies and procedures. Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to review these contents to better familiarize themselves with accessibility practices and regulations.

Laws, Policies and Guidelines

**ADA Section 508** states that federal agencies must ensure their information and services are accessible to persons with disabilities. The revised 508 Standards include not just IT tools and systems, but electronic content such as documents, web pages, presentations, social media content, blogs, and certain emails.

**ADA Section 504** states that "no qualified individual with a disability in the United States shall be excluded from, denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under" any program or activity that receives Federal financial aid.

**Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0, Level AA** explains how to make web content (such as text, images, sounds, code or markup that defines structure, presentation) accessible to people with disabilities.

**Texas Administrative Code** (Rule 206.70 effective April 18, 2020) states that websites and web applications of Institutions of higher education must adhere to Section 508 and WCAG 2.0 Level AA.

**UT System Policy** on accessibility

**UTD's Statement on Web Accessibility**

**Provost’s Memo dated January 6, 2020 on Accessible Syllabi**

**Provost’s Memo dated July 1, 2020 pertaining to the Fall 2020 Academic Calendar and Framework for UT Dallas as Fall 2020 Course Schedule.**

Tutorials and Guides

**Lecture Delivery and recording using MS Teams and Stream** (Webinar by ETS)

**Best Practices in Online Teaching** (Webinar by CTL)

**How to check for accessibility in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel**

**Microsoft Office accessibility**

**Adobe PDF accessibility**

Available Tools and Resources

**The Office of Student AccessAbility** provides support to students needing learning accommodations, and faculty seeking information on better providing those accommodations to their students.

**MS Teams and Stream** - Teams allows faculty to conduct virtual classes with real time close captioning. Stream adds captions to videos for asynchronous viewing.
Office 365 Accessibility Resources - Microsoft has a dedicated accessibility website that serves as a portal for finding their help resources for accessibility.

UTD Syllabus Template (updated in 2019 for screen reader compatibility.)

FAQs

- Do I have to make my content accessible?
- How do I know if something is or is not accessible?
- Who do I contact for accessibility questions?
- What should I do if a student tells me they have a disability?

Additional Resources

- Introduction to Web Accessibility
- University of Washington’s Resources on Accessible Web Design
- University of Washington’s DO-IT Center
- Accessibility in Blackboard Learn (eLearning)
- Accessibility in Blackboard Collaborate
- Accessibility in Turning Technologies (Clickers)