



## Category: Policy – WSU Tech Accessibility

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## **Policy:**

Wichita State University, Campus of Applied Science and Technologies is committed to making all websites, web-based applications, Learning Management Systems (LMS), and instructional materials accessible to its students and faculty who have disabilities and/or barriers to learning.

Accessibility policy and standards are based on the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (ADA), [Section 504](#) and [Section 508](#) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the [Worldwide Web Consortium's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.1](#) Level AA Conformance (WCAG 2.1 Level AA). These will be updated as new standards emerge.

## **Definitions:**

### **Accessible -**

Individuals with disabilities are able to independently acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same services within the same timeframe as a person without a disability, with substantially equivalent ease of use.

### **Disability -**

A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

### **Electronic and Information Technology (EIT) -**

For the purpose of this policy, EIT includes content delivered in digital form, electronic books and electronic book reading systems, search engines and databases, learning and other content management systems, classroom technology and multimedia. EIT includes communication products, computer, ancillary equipment, software, firmware and similar procedures, services (including support services), and related resources.

### **Equally Effective -**

The alternative format or medium communicates the same information in as timely a fashion as does the original format or medium.

### **Learning Management Systems (LMS) -**

LMS means a software application, whether used in a single course, by a department, or by the college which WSU Tech makes available to students and uses to plan, create, administer, document, track, report, deliver, or maintain electronic educational courses, course content, or assess student performance.

### **Undue Burden -**

Undue burden means significant difficulty or expense. An undue burden is a limitation in which an action is not required if it results in significant difficulty or expense.

## **Implementation of Standards**

WSU Tech is dedicated to fully implementing the standards listed below and providing accessibility to all instructional materials and related technologies. For students enrolled during the implementation period all technologies and instructional materials will, to the best of WSU Tech's ability, be accessible.

All WSU Tech owned or contracted content, interfaces, and navigation elements will be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and will be accessible to people with disabilities.

These procedures apply to the following areas:

### **Web Accessibility**

All academic websites, web-based applications, LMS's, and instructional materials will conform to accessibility standards as defined in the policy and guidelines outlined in [WCAG 2.1](#).

Each WSU Tech website should contain contact information for accessibility concerns in the form of an email address which will be agreed upon by all relevant parties in the College.

### **Instructional Materials Accessibility**

All instructional materials, optional and required, must be accessible and as effective and useable for persons with disabilities as they are for persons without disabilities. Instructional materials and activities must be made available to all students at the same time.

WSU Tech will provide mandatory training in accessibility standards and creation of accessible instructional materials to all individuals with instructional responsibilities.

### **Document Accessibility**

College-produced and maintained or distributed electronic documents must be accessible. Electronic documents include, but are not limited to, word processing documents, PDFs, presentations, publications and spreadsheets which are scanned, uploaded, posted, or otherwise published or distributed electronically. Legacy documents must be made accessible when used.

### **Electronic Media Accessibility**

All WSU Tech academic departments will produce only accessible instructional multimedia and update existing inaccessible media as it is put into use.

All videos (professionally or internally produced) used in courses must be captioned according to standards.

## Software, Hardware and Systems Accessibility

All software, hardware and systems purchased for instruction must be accessible and must produce accessible products. Accessible, in this context, means compatible with assistive technology.

- WSU Tech shall monitor compliance with standards and guidelines and inform instructional staff and content developers who have failed to meet standards and will provide direction and guidance to remediate barriers in a timely way.
- Vendors seeking to develop or provide websites or web-based applications for instruction at WSU Tech must demonstrate that their products satisfy WCAG 2.1 AA success criteria. Vendors will be required to warrant in writing that any technology provided is accessible.

## Exceptions

Compliance to specific elements of accessibility is based on [the College's three-year plan](#).

If any materials are non-compliant based on the stage of the plan, requests for an exception must be made following the [Accessibility Exception Requests procedure](#). This procedure also addresses exceptions due to undue burden.

Details regarding accommodations can be found on the [Disability Services page](#).