UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
Committee on Information Technology
(Final; Action)

IT.16.01   University Of Illinois Information Technology Accessibility Policy

RECOMMENDATION
The Senate Committee on Information Technology recommends approval of the attached University Of Illinois Information Technology Accessibility Policy with the understanding that current compliance targets exclude research, requires revision of non-LMS (learning management system) classroom material only upon student-initiated DRES (Disability Resources and Educational Services) request, and provides university resources beyond a faculty author's time to provide a compliant solution.

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University Of Illinois
Information Technology Accessibility Policy

SEC. 1. Purpose

The purpose of the IT Accessibility Policy is:

1) To establish an approach to IT accessibility whereby electronic materials and related information technologies utilized by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign ("University") are accessible.

2) To establish methods whereby the appropriate parties are notified of and can respond to complaints and queries about accessibility concerns and any difficulties in accessing electronic materials and related information technologies.

3) To establish mechanisms that enhance the reputation of the University in regards to IT accessibility and allows the University to satisfy its legal and ethical responsibilities in this area.

SEC. 2. Scope

The IT Accessibility Policy pertains to electronic materials and related information technologies necessary to carry out the mission of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Areas within the scope of this policy include:

1) Electronic materials and multimedia

2) University websites, web-based applications, and their related content

3) Software applications and operating systems

4) Devices used to deliver information technology (tablets and other mobile devices, etc.)

5) Procurement of information technology

2A. Websites, multimedia and other electronic materials where the websites, materials, content, platforms and so forth are not controlled by the University (e.g., are under the control of registered student organizations, social media providers, or university related organizations) are outside the scope of this policy.

2B. This policy recognizes that full IT accessibility compliance is sometimes not possible, especially in the realm of commercial and open source software (See Undue Burden Exception). Non-accessibility must be reviewed and approved by the Academic Accessibility Advisory Group (see next section).

SEC. 3. Authority

The Chancellor of the Urbana-Champaign campus will create and maintain a coordinating group for IT accessibility efforts, which will be named the Academic Accessibility Advisory Group (AAAG).

3A. The AAAG will be comprised of:

1) The Chancellor or the Chancellor's designee,

2) The Provost or the Provost's designee,

3) The Chief Information Officer or the CIO's designee,

4) The Chair of the Campus Senate Executive Committee or the Chair's designee,

5) The Director of Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) or the Director's designee,

6) The Dean of Libraries or the Dean's designee,

7) A student with a registered disability,

8) Additional persons, added as deemed appropriate by the core coordinating members above.

3B. The responsibilities of the AAAG will be delineated in the AAAG Mission Statement and AAAG Charge Statement, which will reside on the IT Accessibility web site (currently at itaccessibility.illinois.edu/policy).

SEC. 4. Policy

It is the responsibility of the University to maximize the accessibility of electronic materials and related information technology for the mission of the University.

University electronic materials and related information technologies will adhere to all applicable accessibility laws, guidelines and national standards for accessibility. Current accessibility laws and guidelines include:

1) Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act

2) Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act

3) The Illinois Information Technology Accessibility Act (IITAA)

4) The W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0, Level A and AA

SEC. 5. Definitions

ACCESSIBLE – Resources are "accessible" when a person with a disability is afforded the opportunity to acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same services as a person without a disability in an equally effective and equally integrated manner, with substantially equivalent ease of use. Subject to the provisions herein, the person with a disability will be able to obtain the information as fully, equally and independently as a person without a disability (Office of Civil Rights).

EQUALLY EFFECTIVE ACCESS – This phrase means that the core content, intent and functionality of an electronic material and/ or information technology will be perceivable, consumable and open to interaction by any user regardless of their capability. The end result will be accomplishable in a comparable time and with comparable effort for all users.

ELECTRONIC MATERIAL — The term ''electronic material'' means digital content including course-assigned books, journals, articles, and web pages, used by University students, faculty, or administrative personnel to facilitate the core missions of the University.

RELATED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY —The term ''related information technology'' means, (A) any electronic platform or delivery system used by students, faculty, or administrative personnel to access electronic materials; and (B) includes any hardware, software, and applications required for the manipulation, annotation, and dissemination of such electronic materials.

SEC. 6. Processes/Procedures/Guidelines

1) The AAAG is charged with creating and maintaining an "Implementation Plan" containing processes, procedures and guidelines for putting this Policy into action. The Implementation Plan will reside on the IT Accessibility web site, which is currently at itaccessibility.illinois.edu/policy.

2) The University will conduct periodic compliance monitoring of the accessibility of electronic materials and related information technologies as covered by this policy.

3) The University will provide adequate and appropriate education and training materials for its faculty, staff and students so as to allow fulfillment of this policy.

SEC. 7. Exceptions

1) The exception of "Undue Burden" may apply only if accessibility under this policy is not technically possible or extraordinary measures are required to make the electronic material or related information technology accessible due to the nature and intent of use. For example, material with limited use, limited availability and/or limitations in the technology utilized could be considered for the application of the Undue Burden exception.

2) Requests for an undue burden exception will be made to the AAAG in writing. The AAAG will create an Exception Request Form to reside on the IT Accessibility web site, which is currently at itaccessibility.illinois.edu/policy.

SEC. 8. Contact

Office of Chancellor, oc.illinois.edu, 217-333-6290