



VI-1.00(E) UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND WEB ACCESSIBILITY POLICY (Approved by the President on an Interim Basis September 12, 2017)

I. POLICY

The University of Maryland is committed to creating and maintaining a welcoming and inclusive educational and working environment for people of all abilities and to ensuring equal access to information and services for all its constituencies. Web-based information and services delivery are the primary means by which the campus community and its visitors communicate and conduct business.

This policy sets minimum standards for the accessibility of all university Web pages used to conduct university business and academic activities to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal regulations, specifically, Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

A. Applicability

This policy applies to all university Web pages used to conduct university business or academic activities. This policy does not apply to Web pages published by students, employees, or non-university organizations that are hosted by the university but are not used to conduct university business or academic activities.

II. DEFINITIONS

“**University Web pages**” are web pages used to conduct university business and academic activities and that students, employees, or visitors must access in order to effectively participate in a program, service, or activity offered by the university. All Web pages published or hosted by units or programs reporting to the President or a Vice President are presumed to be included.

“**Web pages**” includes both Web pages and websites, including their design and any Web-delivered content or service.

III. REQUIREMENTS

- A.** All University Web pages must conform to the [Web Consortium Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) 2.0](#) level AA and the requirements set forth in this policy.
- B.** Within 90 days of the effective date of this policy:
 - 1. Each university administrative, academic, and programmatic unit must establish priorities and timetables for updating their Web pages to conform to the WCAG 2.0 level AA and requirements set forth in this policy, and

2. All University Web pages should contain the words “Web Accessibility” in the footer or any visible location that will link to a common [institutional Web page](#) that contains the following statement: *“The University of Maryland is committed to equal access to Web content. If you need to request Web content in an alternative format or have comments or suggestions on accessibility, contact itaccessibility@umd.edu. For more information about accessibility at UMD, visit the [UMD Accessibility Hub](#).”*

C. All University Web pages must be compliant on or before December 31, 2020.

D. The unit that owns and controls the University Web page and its content is responsible for responding to requests to make content accessible, for replacing or modifying the original content, or for providing an equally effective alternative that communicates the same information and provides equivalent functions in a timely fashion (ideally within 10 business days).

IV. EXCEPTIONS

If achieving compliance with standards set forth by the [Web Consortium Accessibility Guideline \(WCAG\) 2.0](#) Level AA is not possible by the deadline, an Accessibility Exception Request must be submitted. Exceptions will be granted through the Division of Information Technology (DIT). An approved exception request is not an exemption from making a Web page accessible. It documents a temporary delay in compliance that will be accomplished through remediation or discontinuation of use due to end of life.

V. REMEDIATION

Remediation is the responsibility of the university administrative, academic, and programmatic unit that owns and controls the Web page and its content.

VI. REVIEW

The IT Accessibility Committee managed by DIT may initiate a review and necessary revisions of this policy and its associated standards on a periodic basis as needed.

VII. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Division of Information Technology (DIT)

1. Provides documentation and resources about Web accessibility.
2. Provides enterprise solutions and services that enable the scanning of Web pages for compliance with the standards of this policy.
3. Consults with ADS on complaints, equally effective alternatives, and exceptions to the required compliance.
4. Grants exceptions to this policy.

B. Accessibility and Disability Service (ADS)

ADS collaborates with DIT to resolve complaints about Web accessibility - assesses equally effective alternatives and grants exceptions to required compliance.

C. DIT Accessibility Committee

1. Reviews the policy in collaboration with DIT, ADS, and other offices, as appropriate.
2. Reviews Accessibility Exception Requests and makes recommendations to DIT.

D. University Relations

University Relations provides standards and guidelines for Web pages to the university.

E. University administrative, academic, and programmatic units

These units will comply with the requirements of this policy.

VIII. CONTACT

IT accessibility office
itaccessibility@umd.edu