Purpose

Arizona State University (ASU) is committed to providing websites and applications that are accessible to all people, including individuals with disabilities, so that all people have an equal opportunity to participate in the university's programs, activities, and services. The ASU IT Accessibility Standard establishes guidelines for the accessibility of websites and applications in order to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal law.

Applicability

This Standard applies to ASU websites, web-based applications, and related content procured, developed, maintained and/or implemented by ASU to conduct its university academic and business activities.

The University Technology Office oversees and supports website accessibility throughout ASU. Faculty and staff who create, purchase, or maintain websites and applications for university programs, services, and activities are responsible for making them accessible in accordance with this Standard. Any liability that occurs as a result of website inaccessibility will be the responsibility of the department that manages the relevant website.

Standard

ASU is committed to maintaining a diverse and inclusive academic community, including individuals with disabilities. In the procurement, development, maintenance, and/or implementation of ASU websites and applications, the university will adhere to all applicable law. Furthermore, ASU will use its best efforts to meet the current Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), level AA or better, in accordance with this standard. When meeting the current WCAG, level AA, would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of a service, program, or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens, ASU will ensure an equally effective alternative method of access so that, to the maximum extent possible, individuals with disabilities receive the same benefits and services.

A detailed guide on implementing this standard is available on the ASU Accessibility website.

Remediation Priorities

As of Dec. 31, 2021, all new and redesigned websites and web-based applications must comply with the current WCAG, level AA. Existing sites and applications will be remediated as time and resources allow, with high-risk sites and applications being given higher priority. Faculty and staff who maintain existing sites and applications are responsible for ensuring that the remediation occurs in a timely manner,

consistent with this standard. High-risk sites and applications are identified as sites or applications for which one of the following apply:

- One of the 5000 pages most frequently visited pages per Google Analytics
- Involved in providing core university services online
- Intended for people with disabilities
- Reported by users as having accessibility issues

Exemptions

For websites or applications where it is not possible or feasible to meet the current WCAG, level AA, ASU site owners or departments may ask their dean or department head to file an exemption from the standard. Permissible exemptions include websites and web-based applications that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Have been, or are foreseen to be, used by less than 20 people
- Are legacy, defined as sites that are accessed less than 100 times per year
- Where achieving WCAG, level AA, is not technically possible or would require extraordinary measures
- Where achieving WCAG, level AA, would result in a fundamental alteration of the website or application and not satisfy the intent of the site or application
- Any third-party website or application for which no alternative accessible products are available
- That are archived information resources

Resources

ACD 405: Individuals with Disabilities
ASU Accessibility

Standard Revision

This standard is subject to review and revision at the direction of, and only after approval by, the Chief Information Officer. To offer suggestions and/or recommendations, contact ASU Web Accessibility at webaccessibility@asu.edu.