

# Overview of the ADA Title II Regulations on Digital Accessibility

**Special Order Presentation**  
**University Senate**  
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# Agenda

- 1 Overview of Title II of the ADA for Digital Accessibility
- 2 Update on UMD Accessible Technology Policy
- 3 Update on formation of Digital Accessibility Advisory Committee and Liaison Group
- 4 Overview of Available Digital Accessibility Training Opportunities and Plan Forward



# Title II of the ADA for Digital Accessibility

- Requires public educational institutions to ensure their digital services, programs, and content are fully accessible to individuals with disabilities.
- This includes all public and private content related to:
  - Websites
  - Instructional content
  - Multimedia (video captions & audio descriptions)
  - Documents (PDFs, Word, presentations, spreadsheets, etc.)
  - Software and Mobile Apps
  - Social Media
- Compliance timeline: **April 24, 2026**
- Standard: Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 and AA



# Five Main Exceptions

- 1 Archived content:** Content that was created before the compliance deadline and is only used for reference, research, or record-keeping (labeled as archived)
- 2 Pre-existing documents:** Electronic documents that were created before the compliance deadline
- 3 Third-party content:** Content posted by third parties that are not contracted, licensed, or otherwise arranged for by the public entity.
- 4 Individualized documents:** Password-protected documents that are specific to an individual, account, or their property.
- 5 Pre-existing social media content:** Social media posts that were created before the compliance deadline



# UMD Accessible Technology Policy *(currently under review)*

- Policy Number: VI-1.00(E) [University of Maryland Accessible Technology Policy \(2017\)](#)
- All Web-based information newly adopted or redesigned by any university administrative, academic, or programmatic unit on or after the establishment of this policy must be in compliance with the **World Wide Web Consortium's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) Version 2.1 A and AA** conformance level.
- “Web-based information” includes:
  - Web pages, web content (hypertext, videos, documents, images, audio files, etc.)
  - Web-based applications
  - Online instructional content and online services
  - Online resources, including those developed by, maintained by, or offered through third-party vendors or open sources



# UMD Electronic Information, Communication, and Technology Accessibility Policy *(currently under review)*

➤ An interim policy addressing changes within updated federal regulations was approved by the President on July 25, 2025.

➤ The [IT Council Charged by Senate with Reviewing the updated Accessible Technology Policy](#) (proposed August 11, 2025, IT Council Charged October 6, 2025)

➤ Specifically, the IT Council has been asked to:

1. Review the interim policy and compare UMD's policy to other Big10 and peer institutions
2. Consult relevant UMD community members
3. Consider whether the proposed changes follow and meet federal regulation and propose policy updates or revisions, by January 30, 2026

# Digital Accessibility Advisory Committee

- Per the President's Cabinet and Dean's Forum\*, formal recommendations were made to establish a **UMD Digital Accessibility Advisory Committee (DAAC)**. The committee was established and charged on August 14, 2025 by Jeff Hollingsworth, VP/CIO.
  
- The committee will provide guidance on six strategic areas:
  1. Prioritization, Policies, standards, and best practice documents
  2. Websites
  3. Teaching and Learning - Instructional Content
  4. Research
  5. Applications and web-based third-party tools
  6. Social media

*\*Presented to the Cabinet on 11/19/2024 and the Dean's Forum on 02/03/2025*

# Digital Accessibility Advisory Committee

## Milestones and Deliverables

- The committee accomplished the following during the Fall 2025 semester
  - Appointed campus-wide senior-level points of contact to serve as Digital Accessibility Liaisons (30 + members)
  - Published Digital Accessibility Interim Guidelines and Digital Accessibility Guide for Instructors
  - Created and distributed Digital Accessibility planning templates to campus digital accessibility liaisons
  - Created and distributed Digital Accessibility implementation plans and timeline templates for unit-level programs, activities, courses, etc.
  - Distributed campus-wide messaging to all Spring 2026 instructors of record, pointing them to resources, training, and data dashboards

**What can I do now to continue to prepare for the updated ADA regulations by April 24, 2026?**



# Engage in Digital Accessibility Training

- Reach out to your DA Liaison and expand your knowledge by seeking out ongoing training opportunities: Visit [it.umd.edu/accessibility/training](https://it.umd.edu/accessibility/training)
- Review the [Digital Accessibility Guide for Instructors](https://it.umd.edu/accessibility/digital-accessibility-instructors)  
Visit [it.umd.edu/accessibility/digital-accessibility-instructors](https://it.umd.edu/accessibility/digital-accessibility-instructors)
- Participate in Asynchronous Training Opportunities, including:
  1. **Basic Principles of IT Accessibility** (39 minute webinar, Six Essential Steps)
  2. **Accessible Course Design** (14 minute video overview of Ally, UMD's ELMS-Canvas Accessibility Tool)
  3. **Document Accessibility** (1 hour overview for PDFs using Adobe's Accessibility check, Equidox, and Sensus Access)
  4. **Web Accessibility** (2 hour training for web content producers, editors and managers)
- Engage in Upcoming Synchronous Training Opportunities, including:
  1. **Six Essential Steps for Digital Accessibility** (February 11 & 26, 2026)
  2. **ELMS-Canvas Accessibility Tools** (ongoing)
  3. **Overview of the Ally ELMS-Canvas Accessibility Tool** (February 4, 2026)

# Leverage campus-wide resources

 We are stronger together and have numerous campus resources from which to draw, including:

1. [The Office of Belonging and Community - Accessibility](#)
2. [The Division of IT Digital Accessibility Resources and Training](#)
3. [The Teaching and Learning Transformation Center](#)
4. [The Maryland Initiative on Digital Accessibility \(MIDA\)](#)
5. [Office of Marketing and Communications](#)
  - a. [Accessible Media Content](#)
  - b. [Social Media Content](#)
6. [Procurement and Business Services](#)
7. [IT Accessibility Best Practice for Researchers](#)



# Digital Accessibility Interim Guidelines\*

- 1 Establish unit liaisons** to coordinate digital accessibility across campus.
- 2 Learn about digital accessibility** by reviewing policies and attending training.
- 3 Start an inventory** of digital content to understand your digital environment.
- 4 Clean up** outdated content using tools such as [TidyUp for ELMS-Canvas](#).
- 5 Prioritize efforts with available resources** to establish priority areas.

*\* The interim guidelines above are currently under review by the DAAC.*

**What has UMD been doing to support compliance with the updated Title II ADA regulations ?**



# Fall 2025 Initiatives

- 1 Increased the number and frequency of digital accessibility training and consultations, hours, and participants (DIT, TLTC, Office of Belonging and Community).
- 2 Published accessibility dashboards for ELMS-Canvas courses and UMD websites in November 2025.
  - List of all UMD websites and ELMS-Canvas courses with accessibility scores
  - Updated monthly and shared with Digital Accessibility Liaisons.
  - Contains information to help prioritize efforts
- 3 Added new resources to and redesigned [it.umd.edu/accessibility](https://it.umd.edu/accessibility)
  - New Digital Accessibility Guide for Instructors
  - Redesigned webpage to increase resource use



**What should campus leadership do to support  
UMD's compliance with the updated Title II  
ADA regulations ?**



# Spring 2026 Initiatives

- Continue to promote campus understanding of upcoming digital accessibility federal regulations, associated training, data dashboards campus-wide resources.
- Collaborate with members of the DAAC to create a central repository of unit-level digital accessibility implementation plans and associated timelines.
- Analyze file storage patterns using ELMS-Canvas API data, with a specific focus on PDF characterizations (searchable or non-searchable texts, contains images, includes interactive content).
- Complete the procurement of pilot digital accessibility tools to facilitate PDF remediation/accessibility efforts and STEM material ([GrackleDocs](#) and [MathPix SNIP](#)).

