

University of Washington Bothell
Administrative Policy Statement
IT Accessibility
POLICY – 6.1

A. POLICY

The University of Washington Bothell strives to ensure that people with disabilities have access to the same services and content that are available to people without disabilities, including services and content made available through the use of information technology (IT). IT procured, developed, maintained, and used by UW Bothell should provide substantially similar functionality, experience, and information access to individuals with disabilities as it provides to others. Examples of IT covered by this policy include web sites, software systems, electronic documents, videos, and electronic equipment such as information kiosks, telephones, and digital signs.

B. PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to campus units and individuals employed by the University of Washington (UW) for fulfilling the UW's commitment to equal access to information technology (IT) and complying with the [UW Policy—IT Accessibility](#). Following the guidelines helps to ensure that people with disabilities have access to the same services and content that are available to people without disabilities, including services and content made available through the use of information technology.

The UW makes its offerings accessible to individuals with disabilities in accordance with [UW Policy—IT Accessibility](#), [UW Administrative Policy Statement 2.3](#), [UW Executive Order 31](#), and [Washington State Policy #188](#). The underlying foundation for the policies and the UW's IT Accessibility Guidelines is Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and the Amendments Act of 2008.

C. DEFINITION

The UW has adopted the definition of “accessible” used by the U.S. Department of Education in resolutions with postsecondary institutions regarding civil rights complaints about the inaccessibility of their IT.

“Accessible” means 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. The person with a disability must be able to obtain the information as fully, equally, and independently as a person without a disability (source: [Resolution Agreement: South Carolina Technical College System](#), OCR Compliance Review No. 11-11-6002).

D. SCOPE

IT covered by the guidelines supports administrative, research, and academic applications, including the following examples:

- Websites
- Video and audio content
- Electronic documents
- Desktop, mobile, and cloud-based applications
- Content and learning management systems
- Email and calendars
- Library resources
- Computers and peripherals
- Information kiosks, telephones, digital signs, and other electronic equipment
- Classroom technologies

E. STANDARDS

Technologies and standards evolve at a rapid pace. The UW looks to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level AA, developed by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), for guidance in meeting its IT accessibility commitments. WCAG 2.0 provides success criteria for measuring web accessibility, as well as provides useful metrics for products and services that are not specifically web-based. Where an IT product cannot be brought into compliance, campus units are responsible for providing an individual with disability equivalent access.

F. PROGRESS AND PLAN

The University of Washington has a lengthy history of proactively addressing IT accessibility issues. It's [IT Accessibility Progress and Plan](#) and UW Bothell's IT Accessibility Progress and Plan describes past efforts and future plans as it strives to ensure IT developed, procured, and used at the UW is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

G. RESOURCES

The following resources can assist the UW community in understanding and meeting its accessibility goals. These resources can also be used as a reference for vendors and contractors providing IT products and services to the UW.

Resources and Support for IT Accessibility
[Accessible Technology at the University of Washington \(AT-UW\)](#)
[IT Accessibility Checklist](#)
[Access Technology Center](#)
[Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0](#)

Additional Campus Resources
[Disability Resources for Students \(DRS\)–Seattle](#)
[UW Bothell Disability Resources for Students \(DRS\)](#)
[UW Tacoma Disability Support Services \(DSS\)](#)
[Disability Services Office \(DSO\)](#) (for staff, faculty, and visitors at all UW campuses)
[Compliance Services–ADA Coordinator](#)

Legal and Policy Requirements

[UW Policy–IT Accessibility](#)

[Washington State Policy #188](#)

[UW Administrative Policy Statement 2.3](#)

[Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#)

[Americans with Disabilities Act as amended](#)

[UW Executive Order No. 31](#)

Related Links:

- [UW Administrative Policy Statement 2.3](#)
- [UW Executive Order 31](#)
- [Washington State Policy #188](#)
- [Americans with Disabilities Act](#)
- [UW IT Accessibility Guidelines](#)
- [UW IT Accessibility Checklist](#)
- [Accessible Technology at the UW](#)