Campus Administrative Policy

Policy Title: Digital Accessibility

Policy Number: 5012  Functional Area: Information Technology

Effective: April 1, 2019 (pending)
Date Last Amended/Reviewed: February 26, 2019July 1, 2018
Date Scheduled for Review: July 1, 2024
Supersedes: Digital Accessibility, July 1, 2018 N/A (New Policy)

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Reviewing Office: Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance
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Responsible Officer: Associate Vice Chancellor for Information Technology

Applies to: University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
University of Colorado Denver

A. INTRODUCTION

The University of Colorado Denver and Anschutz Medical Campuses strive to ensure that people of all abilities have access to the same services and content available to people without disabilities, including services and content made available through the use of information technology. In accordance with Administrative Policy Statement (APS) 6011, Digital Accessibility, “…each campus Chancellor, or designee, shall be responsible for providing digital accessibility standards and establishing appropriate compliance and governance structures.” This policy establishes those responsibilities, standards, compliance, and governance structures as required by APS 6011.
B. POLICY STATEMENT

The Office of Information Technology services and applications that are procured, developed, maintained, and used by the CU Denver and CU Anschutz faculty, staff, and students should provide similar functionality, experience, and information access to individuals of all abilities. Examples of technology covered by this policy include web sites, software systems, electronic documents, learning management system, videos, and hardware equipment.

If you experience a barrier, and/or learn about a barrier that affects your ability to access CU Denver | CU Anschutz websites, videos, online forms, or other digital content, technologies and/or services, please send a detailed message to the OIT Service Desk - help@ucdenver.edu or 303.724.HELP (4357).

Accessibility is the responsibility of all members of the CU Denver and CU Anschutz community. In accordance with APS 6011, section II.D, if you create (or are responsible for) websites, software, videos, or electronic documents and instructional content; or if you procure technology that others will use, it is your responsibility to ensure these technologies and content are accessible to all users. To that end, the key areas surrounding accessibility are as follows:

1. Any and all information and technology—including, but not limited to, computers and ancillary equipment, instructional materials (including online course content, which must strive to be universally designed and inclusive), software, videos, apps, multimedia, telecommunications, or web-based content or products—developed, procured, maintained, or used in carrying out university activities must be compliant with Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended; Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA, developed by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C); other related local, state, and federal laws; and other related university policies. (See APS 6011, section II.A.1 for a more extensive list of items that must fall within these accessibility standards.)

2. The person/team Faculty and staff responsible for the information or technology must undertake reasonable efforts to make it accessible in a timely manner upon becoming aware of non-compliance applicable to federal or state law, as well as the CU Denver | CU Anschutz campus administrative policy 3054, Nondiscrimination Policy. If the information or technology is required for coursework or for essential job functions, a timely review by the access and usability manager will determine if appropriate alternatives are available and can be implemented. If the alternatives cannot be implemented in a timely manner, the access and usability manager will consider requiring the removal of access to the information or technology.
Faculty and Staff Persons who use, create, purchase, or maintain information or communication technology (ICT) for university programs, services, and activities in the scope of their employment are responsible for making decisions about which products, services and technologies to procure. Responsible for making it accessible should strongly consider accessibility in accordance with campus standards defined in APS 6011, Section II.A.2 as one of the criteria for acquisition. This will ensure that products, services and technologies developed at, purchased by, or used at the university are accessible to all faculty, students, and staff, including those with disabilities. This is especially critical for enterprise-level systems and other technologies that affect a large number of students, faculty, and/or staff. Faculty and Staff should consult with campus authority for information regarding responsibilities and advice on best practices.

C. ANNUAL REPORTING

In accordance with APS 6011, the CU Denver | CU Anschutz Chief Information Officer will provide an annual digital accessibility status to the CU IT Governance committee. At a minimum, this status should note changes to standards, barriers to compliance to standards, and identified accessibility barriers for broadly used systems.

Notes

1. Dates of official enactment and amendments:
   July 1, 2018: Adopted/Approved by the Chief Information Officer
   January 30, 2019: Amended

2. History:
   January 29, 2019: Modified to reflect a Campus-wide effort to recast and revitalize various Campus policy sites into a standardized and more coherent set of chaptered policy statements organized around the several operational divisions of the university. Amended to ensure compliance with APS 6011, Digital Accessibility.

3. Initial Policy Effective Date: July 1, 2018

4. Cross References/Appendix:
   • University of Colorado Administrative Policy Statement 6011, Digital Accessibility
   • Campus Administrative Policy 3054, Nondiscrimination Policy
   • Rehabilitation Act of 1973, sections 504, 508
   • Americas with Disabilities Act of 1990
   • Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (2.1), Level AA
   • University of Colorado Digital Accessibility Program