



Accessible Technology Working Group

Goal: A Digitally Accessible University

Removing digital barriers from University Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) resulting in an equal opportunity for all students, employees, and guests.

**It's the right thing to do!
(and it's the law)**

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

Electronic systems and equipment, and information resources contained therein, used in the creation, conversion, communication, duplication, storage, or display of data or information. This definition strives to capture the broad spectrum of current and emerging technology.

What is Accessibility?

"Accessibility is all about our ability to engage with, use, participate in, and belong to, the world around us."

-Be Accessible website: <http://www.beaccessible.org.nz/the-movement/what-is-accessibility>

Universal Design

architectural underpinnings

Designing the built environment to be usable by as many people as possible



Universal Design

architectural underpinnings

Designing the built
environment to be usable by
as many people as possible



Universal Design

architectural underpinnings

Designing the built environment to be usable by as many people as possible



Potential ICT Barriers

- Websites
- Documents/instruction materials, video
- Classroom technology
- Procured or developed ICT (software, web-based instructional systems, web-based administrative systems, etc.)
- Library databases
- etc

What is Accessibility?

legal perspective

“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. A person with a disability must be able to obtain the information as fully, equally, and independently as a person without a disability. Although this might not result in identical ease of use compared to that of persons without disabilities, it still must ensure equal opportunity to the educational benefits and opportunities afforded by the technology and equal treatment in the use of such technology.”

- U.S. Dept. of Education, Office of Civil Rights

Disability Laws

protect individuals with disabilities from discrimination on the basis of their disabling condition.

- **Section 504** of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504)
 - Applies to all entities that receive federal funding, including federal financial aid and grants awarded to faculty and staff.
- **Americans with Disabilities Act** of 1990 (ADA)
 - Prohibits disability discrimination in places of public accommodation, including public universities.
- **Section 508** of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 508)
 - Requires electronic communications and information technologies, such as websites, documents, and other instructional materials be accessible.
(WCAG 2.0, A/AA Guidelines for compliance)

Types of Disabilities

- Visual: Blindness, legally blind, low vision, color blindness
- Hearing: Deaf, hard-of-hearing
- Mobility: Difficulty or inability to use a mouse, slow reactions, limited fine motor control
- Cognitive: memory, problem solving, attention, comprehension

Disabilities

data points

- Disability is a protected class that we may **all** someday be a part of, either temporarily or permanently.
- 11% of higher education students in 2011-12 reported having a disability (many more chose not to disclose, USDOE, 2015).
- 22.2% of adults (18 and over) in the US identify as having some type of disability (CDC, 2015).
- Significant gap in educational attainment between 18-64 years old with and without disabilities. 19% difference in BS attainment (Erickson, Lee, & von Schrader, 2015).

Disability Lawsuits

***Complaints and Litigation
in H.E. increasing!***



Accessible Technology Working Group (ATWG)

Charge:

The Accessible Technology Working Group (ATWG) is charged with coordinating campus efforts to comply with federal accessibility laws and support Michigan Tech's commitment of providing its diverse community of students, faculty, staff and visitors, including those with disabilities, with access to academic, research, and administrative programs and services via its information and communication technologies (ICT).

Accessible Technology Working Group (ATWG)

The ATWG requires expertise from a diverse group of campus stakeholders. Most work will originate in subgroups of experts and stakeholders to support strategies and goals.

**New members
always welcome!**

Membership:

- Information Technology
- Library
- Student Disability Services
- Center for Teaching and Learning
- Institutional Equity and Inclusion
- Dean of Students
- University Marketing and Communications
- Academic Units
- Administrative Units
- Research
- Athletics

ATWG Sub-Groups

Web Accessibility

Procurement

Instructional
Materials and
Documents

Communications

ATWG Sub-Groups

Web Accessibility

- *Awareness/training*
- *Web accessibility procedures*
- *Web audit*
- *Remediation plan*

ATWG Sub-Groups

Instructional
Materials/Documents

- *Awareness/training*
- *Accessible document procedures*
- *Document audit*
- *Remediate critical documents*

ATWG Sub-Groups

Procurement

- *Awareness/training*
- *Accessible procurement procedures*
- *ICT audit*

ATWG Sub-Groups

Communications

- *Awareness*
- *Accessibility website*
- *Presentations/workshops*

Accessible ICT Policy

DRAFT Accessible Technology Policy November 1, 2017

Policy Number

XXX

Title

Accessible Information and Communication

Technology Policy

Effective Date

XX

Senate Proposal

Responsible Officer

University President

Responsible Office

Institutional Equity and Inclusion

Policy Statement:

Michigan Technological University is dedicated to providing equal opportunity for all students, employees, and members of the public, including those with disabilities, who access our services, programs, and activities. This includes providing equal access to University information and communication technologies (ICT) such as university systems, websites, electronic documents, and educational and training materials.

Policy Requirements: *(required elements in place for this policy to be enforceable)*



Susan Sullivan/IEI/susulliv@mtu.edu

Jeff Toorongian/CTL/jetooron@mtu.edu

