Introduction to Accessibility

Accessibility Foundations

Understand the basics of Accessibility and why it's important to create Accessible content.

- [Accessibility 101](#) – Introduction to Accessibility and why it matters
- [How People with Disabilities Use the Web | Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) | W3C](#)
- [Web Accessibility Perspectives Videos: Explore the Impact and Benefits for Everyone](#) – short videos highlighting accessibility features that are essential to people with disabilities and useful for all.
- [Washington State Policy 188 (Office of the Chief Information Officer)](#) – All electronic content hosted by Washington State agencies must meet WCAG 2.1 (AA) specifications.

Accessibility How-To

How to get started building accessible content

- [SBCTC Online Courses](#) – A high-level 'boot camp' for becoming familiar with implementing Accessibility in Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat, and other software.
- [Accessibility Training | Section508.gov](#) – Training videos for Microsoft Office documents, Adobe Acrobat, and other aspects of creating Accessible content.
- [Improving Image Accessibility with Alt Text](#) and [Writing Effective and Accessible Alt Text](#) – quick video primers on Alt Text
- [Creating Accessible Video and Audio Content](#)
- [WCAG 2 Overview | Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) | W3C](#) – Basics of what is required to meet WCAG 2.1 (AA) specifications for Accessible electronic content.
- [How to Meet WCAG (Quickref Reference) (w3.org)](#) – In-depth checklist and examples of how to meet requirements for each element of WCAG 2.1 A and AA specifications.

Microsoft Office

- [Word Documents and Accessible Document Structure](#) – How formatting and document structure affect Accessibility. Especially important for documents that are converted to PDF.
- [Make your PowerPoint presentations accessible to people with disabilities (microsoft.com)](#)
- [Video: Check the accessibility of your Word document (microsoft.com)](#)
- [Accessibility video training (microsoft.com)](#) – Why using the tools built into Office docs can make better docs and a better experience for everyone.

PDFs

- [WebAIM.org - PDF Accessibility](#) – High-level overview of how to create Accessible PDFs.
- [SBCTC Online Courses](#) – How to build and test Accessible PDF files, with examples that are more specific.
- [Adobe InDesign Accessibility](#) – creating Accessible PDFs from Adobe InDesign

Accessibility Review

Guidance and tools to help with ensuring your content meets Accessibility Requirements. Automated testing (i.e. built-in Adobe & Microsoft accessibility checks) can be helpful, but doesn't cover everything. A manual check is required, too!

- [Contrast Checker](#) is a tool that measures the contrast between two colors. Most built-in Accessibility checkers miss this check, so a manual review of color contrast in content needs to be done using this tool.
- [NVDA Screen Reader](#) is a free and widely used screen reader. See also [How to Use NVDA](#) to check Accessibility.
- [Accessibility Insights for Web](#) is the most thorough single tool for assessing WCAG 2.1 AA success criteria. It combines guided manual testing with automated testing.
- [Required fixes for PDFs](#) – List of issues and remediation strategies for PDF files.