

# Accessible Digital Content in Veterinary Education



Digital learning materials are a necessary part of veterinary education, providing information to learners in multiple modes anytime and anywhere. With the diversity found in the veterinary field it is essential to provide all learners with a quality user interface and experience (UI/UX). A major component of good UI/UX is making this content useable to a wide range of people including those with disabilities. Addressing accessibility requires attention to be paid to four main areas; visual, auditory, motor and cognitive. It is also important to keep in mind those whose disability might be temporary such as an arm or eye injury.

In the US there are federal and state legal mandates requiring a level of ADA accessibility. While this

session is not designed to address specific legal issues nor provide legal guidance, most of these guidelines point to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (<https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG>). The WCAG guidelines will not only help to make content more accessible to learners with disabilities but can increase the usability and experience for all.

## Primary Discussion Questions

- This seems very daunting; how do I start?
- What content do I need to make accessible?
- Will meeting the minimum standards provide a good learning experience?

## Online Resources

The W3C Accessibility Initiative:  
<https://www.w3.org/WAI/fundamentals/accessibility-intro>

WEB AIM – Web Accessibility in Mind:  
<https://webaim.org>

The A11Y Project: <https://a11yproject.com>

CAST: <http://www.cast.org>

## Accessibility Tools

WAVE Web Accessibility Evaluation Tool:  
<https://wave.webaim.org>

Site Improve Accessibility Plugin for Chrome:  
<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/siteimprove-accessibility/efcfolpjhicnikpmhnmphjhphiclljc>

HHS Checklists:  
<https://www.hhs.gov/web/section-508/accessibility-checklists/index.html>

Color Contrast Analyser:  
<https://www.tpgi.com/color-contrast-checker>

Chrome Web Developer:  
[https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/web-developer/bfbameneiokkgbdmiekhjnmfkcnldhnm?utm\\_source=chrome-app-launcher-info-dialog](https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/web-developer/bfbameneiokkgbdmiekhjnmfkcnldhnm?utm_source=chrome-app-launcher-info-dialog)

axe DevTools - Web Accessibility Testing Chrome:  
<https://chromewebstore.google.com/detail/axe-devtools-web-accessib/lhdoppojpmngadmndnejejpokejbd-d?hl=en-US>

Firefox Web Developer Toolbar:  
<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/web-developer>

W3C Validation Service – Markup:  
<http://validator.w3.org>

W3C Validation Service – CSS:  
<http://jigsaw.w3.org/css-validator>

NVDA (Windows Screen Reader):  
<http://www.nvaccess.org>

VoiceOver (Mac Screen Reader): Native to OS

Fang (Screen Reader Emulator):  
<https://www.standards-schmandards.com/projects/fangs.html>