Information Communications Technology Accessibility Policy

Policy Statement

The University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) is committed to meeting standards of equal accessibility for its website including the content published on its website to everyone, including persons with disabilities. This policy is intended to describe the technical standards and policies relied upon by the University to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the State of ●klahoma Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Act (EITA).

Technical Standard

UCO requires that Information Communications Technology (ICT) produced after the effective date of this policy be designed, authored, purchased, developed, managed, procured and implemented with accessibility to all members of the University community, including those with disabilities, as required by law, and strives to meet the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1, Level AA to ensure its digital offerings are ADA compliant.

Definitions

Web Content – Any digital material that may be distributed electronically. This includes, but is not limited to:

- HTML web pages;

- Electronic documents;

- Multimedia where the integration of multiple forms of media present text, graphics, audio, video, animations and interactive features; and,

- Instructional material in any format.

Information Communications Technology (ICT) Resource –Any content delivered electronically to any audiences, whether internal or external to the university, such as prospective students, visitors, public officials, university personnel, and the general public.

New Content –ICT resource that is created after the effective date of this policy.

Redesigned Content –ICT resource that has its visual design and/or content materially changed after the effective date of this policy.

Closed Audience – A small and known group that is the only intended recipient of content.

Scope

This policy is intended to apply to all new and redesigned online ICT content published for University-related business by any University college, school, department, program, organization or unit on or after the effective date of this policy must conform to the standards described above.

Responsible Parties/Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of all UCO Community members to provide accessible content meeting the above standards via all channels including web, course content, etc.

This policy will be overseen by the UCO Digital Accessibility Consultant who will work together with cross-functional accessibility specialists on the UCO Digital Accessibility Committee which shall include designees from the UCO office of Disability Support Services, the Office of Information Technology, the Assistant Vice President for University Communications and the University's EEO Coordinator/ADA Coordinator, and be responsible for providing guidance, overseeing content and delivering training sessions/materials to the UCO Community. The UCO Digital Accessibility Committee will administer through the University's Center for eLearning and Connected Environments.

Violations

Developers and managers of ICT content found in violation of this policy and/or the applicable technical standards by the Digital Accessibility Consultant in consultation with UCO Digital Accessibility Committee will be suspended from access until removed, replaced or remediated by the owner of such content.

Exceptions

The following ICT content is not covered by this policy:

- Content published by students, employees, or non-university organizations that are hosted by the university and is not related to official University business;

- ICT resources created before the effective date of this policy that is kept solely for informational or statutory purposes.; and,

- Pre-production content intended for a closed audience.

All content must abide by the technical standards outlined above, as the standards improve the readability and clarity of the content. The foregoing notwithstanding, all content must be made accessible to accommodate a qualified person with a disability or on behalf of an individual with a disability upon request.

Where compliance is not technically possible or may require extraordinary measures due to the nature of the information and the intent of the content, a request for exception must be made in writing to the University's Digital Accessibility Consultant for consideration as an exception to this policy. Such requests must substantiate an undue burden. While awaiting an exception, content may not be used in conducting University business.

Complaints

Complaints may be addressed to the University of Central Oklahoma's Digital Accessibility Consultant by phone at 405-974-3402 or by following the procedures of alleged disability discrimination and/or harassment located online at https://www.uco.edu/offices/policy/.

Approved: August 25, 2020

By: _____

Patti Neuhold-Ravikumar, President