

IT SERVICES

New Digital Accessibility Requirements

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The New DOJ Requirement (ADA Title II)

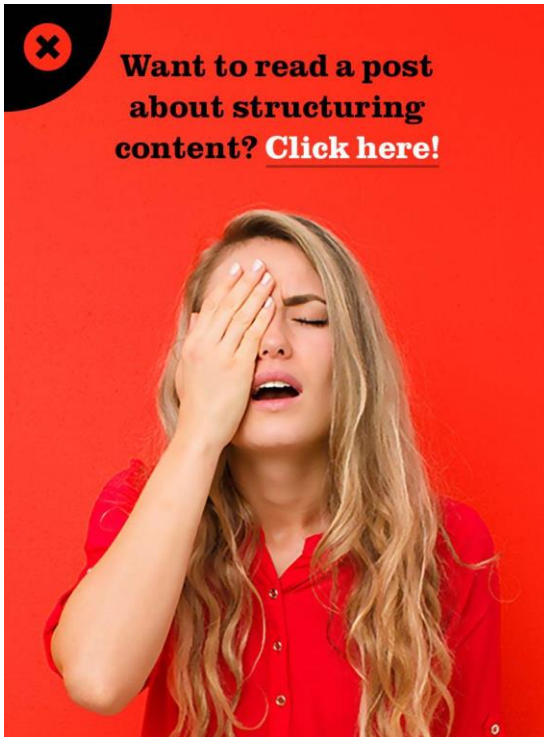
What is happening?: The DOJ has issued new rules for Title II of the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#).

Compliance Standard: All digital content must meet [WCAG 2.1 AA](#) standards.

Legal Mandate: As a public university, UC San Diego is required to comply with these federal regulations by **April 24, 2026**.

[UC Policy](#) IMT-1300 (Information Technology Accessibility) amended on **3/17/2026**.

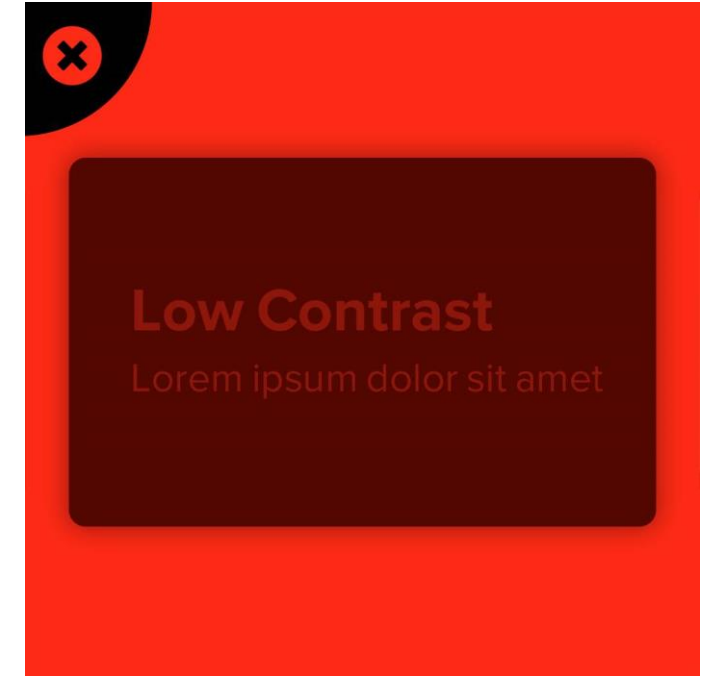
Examples of non-compliant content



Non-contextual link text like "Click here" or "Read more" impedes screen reader users.



Missing or non-descriptive alt-text denies vision impaired users the ability to extract meaning from images.



Poor contrast between background and text prevents low-vision users from accessing content.

What is Covered? (Scope of Content)

Websites & Apps: Both public-facing and internal web assets.

LMS & Course Materials: Learning Management Systems (Canvas) and all syllabi, readings, and presentations.

Multimedia: Recorded lectures, podcasts, and videos (must include captions, transcripts and audio descriptions).

Digital Documents: PDFs, Word docs, and Google Docs.

Communication: Social media posts and HTML email communications.

Taking a Risk-Based Approach

Recognizing that we cannot address everything at the same time, our strategy focuses on digital content that poses the greatest legal and institutional risk.

Immediate Focus (Winter/Spring 2026): Public facing websites (school, department, class, research groups, labs, etc.)

Long Tail (Summer 2026+): Starting Fall 2026; course materials (PDFs, Google Docs/MS Word, Google Slides/MS PowerPoints, lecture recordings, videos, podcasts, etc.)

UC Policy implementation: All purchase agreements will incorporate new accessibility language moving forward

Public Website Scanning & Current Status

Sites Scanned: Over 2500 public-facing sites and aliases have been identified and scanned for accessibility compliance (out of 100 points possible)

- **Least Compliant (0-49):** 135 sites + 152 aliases = 287 (11%)
- **Somewhat Compliant (50-89):** 815 sites + 37 aliases = 852 (33%)
- **Compliant (90-100):** 1114 sites + 331 aliases = 1445 (56%)

Campus-notice & take-down process

- An [all-campus notice](#) was sent on 2/25/2026
- A take-down process has been developed by the [Web Standards Committee](#) and now in progress
 - 30-day notice with a 15-day reminder
 - Temporarily takedown the site if we cannot get ahold of the owner

Available options & how do they help me?

Retire the Site: If you don't need the site anymore, don't waste your time. Archive the content and move on!

Use Canvas and Kaltura: Move your course materials, where possible, into Canvas and Kaltura, where we can automate compliance to reduce your workload.

Use Simple Sites and Campus CMS: Move your websites into existing web content management services, where we can automate compliance to reduce your workload.

Remediate Independently: Manually change your site to meet WCAG 2.1 AA standards. Not recommended.

Ignore and Do Nothing: your site will be temporarily blocked from public access.

Course Content Treatment & Next Steps

Course material (syllabi, lecture slides, recorded videos, etc.) represents a massive volume of digital content to review and remediate.

Enterprise Tool Procurement: ITS is partnering with CAIT to select an accessibility platform to simplify faculty review and remediation workflows. Core requirements include:

- **Deep Canvas Integration:** Automated scanning and content optimization directly within the LMS
- **Standalone Use:** Same available features for non-Canvas instructors
- **Format Versatility:** Compatible with diverse file types, including docs, slides, and multimedia
- **Academic Freedom:** Actionable guidance that respects instructional autonomy and IP

Next Steps: Consultation with with Senate CAIT on 3/20 will guide platform procurement and implementation

Call to action: What we need you to do

1. Be aware of the DOJ requirement and our strategy
2. Be responsive when asked to address accessibility compliance (with support)
 - Public facing websites – in progress
 - Courses and materials – pending tool selection
3. Get in front of it and stop the bleeding
 - Access resources to learn more about accessibility
 - Consult with IT before creating new public facing websites
 - Proactively migrate course websites into Canvas

Currently available tools & resources

Websites: <https://accessibility.ucsd.edu/tools/index.html>

- Review/test sites using UC San Diego brand guidelines
- Screen readers, Contrast/Readability Checkers
- Support contact: wts@ucsd.edu

Canvas: <https://edtech.ucsd.edu/accessibility/index.html>

- Canvas best practices and Accessibility Checker (Rich Content Editor)
- Support contact: canvas@ucsd.edu

Multimedia (videos, slides, etc.): <https://multimedia.ucsd.edu/best-practices/multimedia-accessibility.html>

- Accessibility best practices (contrast, readability, color, visual info, etc.)
- Other multimedia best practices - <https://multimedia.ucsd.edu/best-practices/index.html>
- Support contact: multimedia@ucsd.edu