Instruction by Design CEHD Newsletter

Digital Accessibility | September 19, 2025

TITLE II COMPLIANCE

Reminder: By **April 24, 2026**, all of your digital course content should meet accessibility standards in compliance with the Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) new rule. This includes all instructional materials you share through **Canvas and other platforms**, for **both online and face-to-face courses**.

MYCEHD ACCESSIBILITY WEBSITE

As you work diligently to make your course materials accessible, check out our [MyCEHD Accessibility Resources](#) webpage. It is designed to be your convenient digital accessibility go-to guide. We've compiled essential resources and on-demand tutorials to help you and we'll continue to add more. Here's a preview of the topics you'll get support for:

1. Generate your course accessibility score in **Canvas** and address any issues with course elements.

2. Ensure **images** have appropriate alternative (alt) text.

3. Review and remediate **Word** documents for accessibility.

4. Check and address accessibility issues in **PowerPoint** presentations.

5. Make your **PDFs** accessible.

6. Provide accurate **captions** for all video content.

7. Access on-demand and live accessibility **CTE training** sessions.

8. Use available **TAMU services** for added support and expert guidance.

CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE (CTE) TRAININGS

CTE is offering a series of [accessibility trainings](#) this fall. All sessions are held via Zoom for your convenience. Encourage your GAs to attend as well!

For faculty and staff:

- Sept 24, 12:30-1:15pm | [Creating Accessible Content with Microsoft Word and PowerPoint](#)

- Oct 8, 12:30-1:15pm | [Enhancing Accessibility of PDF Files](#)

- Oct 22, 12:30-1:15pm | [Utilizing Canvas to Check for Content Accessibility](#)

For graduate students:

- Sept 23, 1:00-1:45pm | [Accessible Word and PowerPoint](#)

- Oct 7, 1:00-1:45pm | [Accessible PDF](#)

- Oct 21, 1:00-1:45pm | [Accessible Canvas](#)

GETTING READY FOR SPRING 2026 SEMESTER

Please note:

- As the Spring 2026 course schedules and Canvas shells become available, your instructional designer will be in touch to assist you.

- To get a head start on accessibility, we recommend you **start with a clean course shell**. Then copy over only the content you need. This approach not only improves the accuracy of your accessibility scores but makes remediating any issues more efficient.

- Reach out to your instructional designer if you need a development course (DEV Shell) created.

………

JUST GETTING STARTED WITH DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY?

Making your course materials accessible doesn't have to feel overwhelming. Here are a few steps and quick tips to guide you:

1. Delete any old material from your Canvas course that you won't be using.

2. Add [alternative (alt) text](#) descriptions to images in [Canvas](#) and [Microsoft documents](#).

3. Review and remediate Word documents using the [accessibility checker in MS Word](#). *Tip: Ensure you're using the latest version of Office 365*.

4. Review and remediate [PowerPoint presentations](#).

5. Make your [PDFs](#) accessible. If you have the source document, remediate in [Word](#) or [PowerPoint](#). If you don't have the source document, remediate in [Adobe Acrobat](#).

6. Add [captions](#) to videos - [Using audio transcription cloud recordings [Zoom]](#), [Add closed captions to a video [Camtasia]](#).

7. Reach out for support! Take advantage of the many resources available.

....

OTHER SUPPORT

University Drop-In Computer Labs:

Trained student workers will be available to provide in-person assistance during Fall 2025:

- Mondays, 8am - 5pm in Blocker 129
- Tuesdays, 8am - 12pm in HSFB 119X
- Wednesdays, 8am - 5pm in the Student Computing Center, Room 4.114
- Thursday, 8am - 12pm in HFSB 119X
- Fridays, 8am - 5pm in Blocker 129

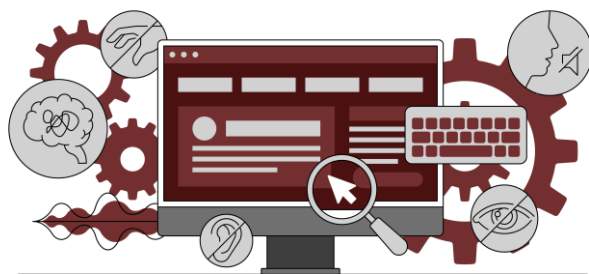**University-Supported Software & Templates:**

Create Accessible Course Syllabi

- [Minimum Syllabus Requirements](#) - ***Please note:*** The MS Word template was updated in July 2025
- [Simple Syllabus](#) - optional for Fall 2025

Make use of these tools that check accessibility and support remediation within Canvas

- [Ally](#)
- [YuJa Panorama*](#)

  **Please note:* We recommend using Ally for accessibility support until further guidance regarding YuJa Panorama is received.

....

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Digital Accessibility Cheat Sheet](#)
- [Ally (Accessibility Tool integrated in Canvas)](#)
- [Ally Accessibility Report in Canvas](#)
- [Generate Your Accessibility Report in Ally](#)
- [Getting Started with Accessibility Remediation](#)

....

CEHD INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGNERS

- EPSY: Trupti Palkar | trupti@tamu.edu
- EAHR: Jere Liu | liu@tamu.edu
- KNSM: John Obenchain | jobenchain@tamu.edu
- TLAC: Kevin Lawanto | knlawanto@tamu.edu