



# Symposium on Educational Excellence 2025

## Digital accessibility part 1: how do I meet guidelines and requirements?

Justi Echeles, MA, Teaching and Learning Center (TLC), Oregon Health and Science University

### Keywords

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion; Universal Design

### Abstract

In 2024, a new Department of Justice (DOJ) ruling requires that all digital content, including online course content, meets required WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) AA standards by April 2026.

While many faculty, staff, and other content creators may know something about accessibility, usually closed captions for videos, the requirement to create all digital content accessibly may seem overwhelming.

This digital accessibility session will introduce all online content creators, including faculty, to why we at OHSU need to ensure all online content is accessible. We will discuss why it's important for a diversity of users and learners. We will discuss how creating digitally accessible content benefits not only those with a disability, but all users and learners. And finally, we will discuss the new federal regulations and what it means to meet universal accessibility guidelines to meet federal requirements.

This session aims to present a simple mnemonic device, the acronym of V-CHILL (very chill), to help participants remember basic accessibility requirements. V-CHILL stands for Video, Color, Headings, Images, Links, and Lists and Tables.

Each letter of the acronym will include a brief description of what it means. We will highlight the accessibility of images across all online formats (web pages, our LMS Sakai, and documents like PPT, Word, and PDF) as well as the accessibility of video, especially regarding accurate transcripts and captions in Echo360.

Finally, this session will briefly tour the online Accessibility Resource Center, ARC so that everyone knows where to go for information and step-by-step instructions.

## Learning Objectives

1. Discuss web content accessibility guidelines and federal requirements for digital accessibility.
2. Apply the basics of digital accessibility to online content (including course content), documents, and video.
3. Explain how to make images and video content digitally accessible.

## References

1. OHSU Now, (2024, October 17). Making OHSU digital services accessible. <https://now.ohsu.edu/member/post/making-ohsu-digital-services-accessible/4c4e5e2b-e5c2-4eb9-a1ba-e5841bc721d7>
2. U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, ADA.gov, (2024, April 8). Fact Sheet: New Rule on the Accessibility of Web Content and Mobile Apps Provided by State and Local Governments. <https://www.ada.gov/resources/2024-03-08-web-rule/>