

Electronic and Information Resource (EIR) Accessibility Plan

Introduction

The University of North Texas is committed to providing an environment that affords equal access and opportunity to otherwise qualified individuals with disabilities, in compliance with federal and state law. Consistent with this commitment, the University of North Texas strives to provide electronic and information resources (EIR) that are accessible to all members of the University of North Texas community and that meet the requirements as stated in [Texas Administrative Code, Title 1, Part 10, Sections 206.70 and 213.](#)

In accordance with Texas Administrative Code (TAC), the University of North Texas developed the EIR Accessibility Compliance Plan; to assist the University of North Texas community comply with the rules for developing, procuring, maintaining and using electronic resources including the development of websites.

Definition of Electronic and Information Resources

Electronic and information resources (EIR) are information technology and any equipment or interconnected system or subsystem of equipment used in the creation, conversion, duplication, or delivery of data or information. EIR includes telecommunications products (such as telephones), information kiosks and transaction machines, World Wide Web sites, multimedia, and office equipment such as copiers and fax machines.

EIR do not include any equipment that contains embedded information technology that is used as an integral part of the product, but the principal function of which is not the acquisition, storage, manipulation, management, movement, control, display, switching, interchange, transmission or reception of data or information. For example:

- HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning);
- Equipment such as thermostats or;
- Temperature control devices; and
- Medical equipment where information technology is integral to its operation.

Responsibilities for Complying with EIR Accessibility Rules

Departments or individuals are required to comply with EIR accessibility rules and with the University of North Texas EIR policy and procedures related to the development, procurement, maintenance, and use of EIR.

The University of North Texas has appointed an EIR Accessibility Coordinator to oversee support and maintenance of the EIR policy and coordinate training on policy 14.005 (Electronic and Information Resources Accessibility) within the campus departments or their designated contact related to accessibility compliance. The EIR Coordinator reviews exception or exemption requests related to acquisition of electronic and information resources.

The office of Procurement monitors compliance with EIR accessibility rules, University of North Texas policy, and procurement procedures related to purchases made under purchasing contracts, purchase orders, or P-cards.

Procurement Standards for EIR Accessibility

When purchasing electronic and information resources, departments should:

1. Review the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) presentation on [“EIR Accessibility in Texas Procurement,”](#) located on their website.
2. Contact Procurement for guidance on requesting accessibility information from vendors during the RFP process, such as accessibility conformance reports or Voluntary Product Accessibility Templates (VPAT).
3. Contact Procurement for guidance on inserting clauses in the contract requiring the vendor to comply with 1 TAC §§ 206.70 and 213.

Standards for Electronic and Information Resources

All electronic and information resources developed, procured, or changed through a procured services contract, and all electronic and information resources services provided through hosted or managed services contracts, must comply with accessibility requirements.

EIR accessibility requirement hyperlinks:

- [Software Applications and Operating Systems](#)
- [Telecommunications Products](#)
- [Video and Multimedia Products](#)
- [Self-Contained, Closed Products](#)
- [Desktop and Portable Computers](#)
- [Information, Documentation and Support](#)

Standards for Web Accessibility

To ensure campus departments' web pages are accessible despite physical, sensory, or environmental or technological barriers, the University of North Texas recommends the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\)](#) of the [World Wide Web Consortium \(W3C\)](#) as the standard for web accessibility.

Web pages published or hosted for or by the University of North Texas must comply with [1 TAC § 206.70](#) including compliance with the current Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) as outlined within the requirement.

Departments have the sole responsibility for the manual inspection of their webpages to validate accessibility criteria unidentified by scanning technology and are responsible for remediation of any accessibility errors on their webpages.

Compliance with Web Accessibility Standards

Implementation of this plan will be incremental. All new web pages will be made accessible before publishing. Existing web pages will be assessed for compliance during updates or by requests from users or others.

If you encounter a web page while accessing the University of North Texas website, which you cannot utilize due to a disability or impairment, please contact the [UNT System EIR Accessibility Coordinator](#) via the link here for rectification of the issue or accommodation.

Web Accessibility and Usability Testing

Public and business partners access the University of North Texas website through various workstations, Internet connections, and web browser applications. To ensure that University of North Texas web pages are designed with consideration for the types of internet connections available, departmental web developers and publishers are responsible for the testing their web pages for accessibility and usability prior to making them available to the public.

Word, excel, and PDF documents should also be tested prior to publishing on a University of North Texas web page. Test web documents using the following Accessibility Checking tools:

- W3C Checklist of [Checkpoints for Web Accessibility Guidelines](#)
- [WebAIM tools](#)
- UNTS ITSS EIR Accessibility Tools [website](#)

Functional Performance Criteria for EIR

1. Provide content that, when presented to an impaired user, conveys the same function, purpose, and information as unimpaired users.
2. Ensure that text and graphics are understandable when viewed without color.
3. Mark up documents with the proper structural elements. Control presentation with style sheets rather than with presentation elements and attributes.
4. Use markup that facilitates pronunciation or interpretation of abbreviated or foreign text.
5. Ensure that tables have appropriate headings and necessary markup for transformation by accessible browsers and other user agents.
6. Ensure that pages are accessible even when newer technologies are not supported or are turned off.
7. Ensure that moving, blinking, scrolling, or auto-updating objects or pages may be paused or stopped.
8. Ensure that the user interface follows principles of accessible design: Device-independent access to functionality, keyboard operability, self-voicing, etc.
9. Use features that enable activation of page elements via a variety of input devices.
10. Use interim accessibility solutions so that assistive technologies and older browsers will operate correctly.
11. Use W3C technologies (according to specification) and follow accessibility guidelines. Where it is not possible to use a W3C technology, or doing so results in material that does not transform gracefully, provide an alternative version of the content that is accessible.
12. Provide context and orientation information to help users understand complex pages or elements.
13. Provide clear and consistent navigation mechanisms -- orientation information, navigation bars, a site map, etc. -- to increase the likelihood that a person will find what they are looking for at a site.
14. Ensure that documents are clear and simple for easy understanding.

Training

The EIR Accessibility Coordinator, with the coordination of campus assigned accessibility contacts, will offer a training program to educate the University of North Texas community about the need for compliance with accessibility requirements as well the policy and procedures to follow to adhere to those requirements.

References

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794d)

Texas Administrative Code, Title 1, 213; Accessibility Standards for Electronic and Information Resources

Texas Administrative Code, Title 1, § 206.70; Accessibility of State Websites

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, W3C World Wide Web Consortium Recommendation AA.

UNT Policy 14.005: Electronic and Information Resource Accessibility