Procedure: <u>ONLINE LEARNING ACCESSIBILITY (AP-108)</u>
Contact: Director of Instructional Media, 541-956-7039

1. Philosophy

The creation and dissemination of knowledge is a defining characteristic of Rogue Community College (RCC) and is fundamental to RCC's mission as evidenced by the College's Core Theme objectives to "Improve access to educational and support systems for current and prospective students" (Core Theme 1: Access to Educational Opportunities), "Increase effective student engagement strategies" (Core Theme 2: Student Success), and "Decrease student time to completion while maintaining quality education" (Core Theme 2: Student Success). The use of state-of-the-art digital and web-based information and the delivery of that information is increasingly central in carrying out this mission, and RCC is committed to ensuring equal access to information for all its constituents.

2. Purpose

This procedure establishes standards and processes for the accessibility of web-based information and services considered necessary to advance the College's commitment to accessibility for all students, faculty, and staff in the online learning environment.

3. Standards

This procedure is intended to facilitate and ensure compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and the Amendments Act of 2008, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Section 508 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act as amended. RCC adopts and follows the World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 at the A and AA level of Success Criteria and the Web Accessibility Initiative Accessible Rich Internet Applications Suite (WAI-ARIA) 1.0.

4. Scope

This procedure applies to all digital materials on the college's public website and all electronic and information technology (EIT), as defined herein. Companies providing content that is not hosted by the College (roguecc.edu) and does not conduct the College's related business are encouraged to adopt the College's policy and standards, but fall outside the scope of this policy.

This procedure is to be used by all College administrators, faculty, and staff to create, obtain, and maintain all EIT in a manner that ensures that EIT is accessible to all individuals, including those with disabilities. By supporting EIT accessibility, the College ensures that as broad a population as possible is able to access, benefit from, and contribute to its electronic programs and services.

5. Definitions

   a. "Accessible" means that individuals with disabilities are able to independently acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same services within the same timeframe as individuals without disabilities, with substantially equivalent ease of use.

b. "Disability" means a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

c. "Electronic and information technology" is electronic text and any hardware or software that is used in the creation, conversion, or duplication of data or information. The term electronic and information technology includes:

- Website templates;
- Publicly-facing instructional materials and other documents;
- Audio and visual media; and
- Software, hardware, and systems.

d. "Equally effective" means that the alternative format or medium communicates the same information in essentially as timely a fashion as does the original format or medium. The ADA requires that Title II entities (state and local governments) communicate with people with disabilities in an "equally effective" manner as with people without disabilities.

e. "Public Websites" refers to externally facing electronic and web materials, systems, applications, web pages, social media, documents, etc. that the public can access without login or direct affiliation with Rogue Community College.

6. Procedures
  a. RCC will utilize Ally within Blackboard to facilitate the evaluation of online courses and ensure all courses meet the standards of this procedure.
  b. Any new or redesigned online course by any College department shall be in compliance with this procedure prior to being offered to students.
  c. Ally training and any other applicable training is available via an online training shell. Instructional Media, with input from Disability Services, will regularly review and update the training shell as appropriate.
  d. All faculty members planning to use Blackboard as a class platform shall complete the online training shell prior to using Blackboard for their class.

7. Links to Related Policies, Procedures, or Information
  - Rogue Community College
    - [RCC Accessibility Website](#)
    - [RCC Discrimination Policies](#)
    - [RCC Accommodation Policy](#)
    - [RCC Disability Services Website](#)
    - [RCC HR website](#)
  - External
    - [Americans with Disabilities](#)
    - [ADA as it applies to electronic information](#)
    - [Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act](#)
    - [Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act](#)
    - [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.0)](#)

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Date Revised: