

Draft Changes to the Digital Accessibility Policy

The [MSU Digital Accessibility Policy](#) was last updated in 2009. This policy establishes minimum standards for the accessibility of information and communication technologies to meet MSU's commitment to provide equitable access to the broadest possible audience. It also helps the university comply with applicable laws including the Americans with Disabilities Act and supports MSU's DEI and strategic plans.

Why is the Policy Being Updated?

First, it has been over 10 years since our policy was last updated. Second, we are anticipating the release of [new regulations from the Civil Rights Division of the US Department of Justice](#) and the US Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights in the spring/summer of 2024.

What's NOT New?

- Both the existing Digital Accessibility Policy and the updated draft policy require adherence to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, an industry standard for digital accessibility.
- Both apply broadly to almost all digital content at MSU including websites, web applications, digital course materials, digital files, and any other audience-facing digital systems and content.
- Both include limited exceptions which typically involve a unit explaining how they will provide an equally effective alternative.
- Violations of the policy may result in content being removed from the internet.

What's New in the Draft?

- An exception for "legacy content" was added, allowing content to be subject to the version of the accessibility standard that was in place when it was last edited.
- The requirement that major units must maintain a Digital Accessibility Liaison was added directly to the policy (this was already a requirement from a previous DDC memo)
- Requires units to responsibly maintain the digital systems and content they create or purchase and clarifies that inaccessible content must be remediated by the responsible unit.
- Includes "expectations" (not requirements) that files be distributed in their native file formats and MSU employees take digital accessibility training appropriate to their university role.

Questions or Feedback?

If you have any questions or feedback about the draft Digital Accessibility Policy, please contact:

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