

North Dakota State University

Policy Manual

SECTION 724

DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY

SOURCE: NDSU President
SBHE Policy [1203.1](#), Section 3

1. Enforcement and questions of compliance with this policy will be addressed by the university's ADA coordinator. Contact information is available at <https://www.ndsu.edu/accessibility/>.
2. Requirements, standards, and technical resources for accessibility and addressing this policy are available at <https://www.ndsu.edu/accessibility/>.

3. SCOPE

This policy covers all digital media and digital content delivered directly by NDSU or indirectly via third parties. It includes, but is not limited to, the Internet and intranet websites, content delivered in digital form, electronic books and electronic book reading systems, search engines and databases, learning management systems, classroom technology and multimedia, personal response systems ("clickers"), and office equipment such as computers, communication devices, copiers, and fax machines. It also includes any equipment or interconnected system or subsystem of equipment that is used in the automatic acquisition, creation, storage, manipulation, management, movement, control, display, switching, interchange, transmission or reception of data, information, or communication. This concept includes telecommunication products (such as telephones), information kiosks, transaction machines (e.g. Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) and point of sale devices (POS)), computers, ancillary equipment, software, firmware, and similar procedures, services (including support services), and related resources.

4. North Dakota State University is committed to the principles of universal design for learning (UDL), honoring diversity and fostering a campus culture of full inclusion for people with disabilities by ensuring that all university constituencies can access its digital information and digital services. This policy pertains to all electronic and information technologies and applies to their procurement, development, implementation, use, and maintenance. All digital Information and services to be used by North Dakota State University students, faculty, researchers, staff, program participants, the general public, and other university constituencies is required to be compliant with the non-discrimination provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

5. To be compliant with this policy a person with a disability must be afforded the opportunity to acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same services as a person without a disability in an equitably effective and integrated manner, with substantially equivalent ease of use. A person with a disability must be able to obtain the information or service as fully and independently as a person without a disability; as such universal design should be utilized whenever possible.
 6. It is the responsibility of all university administrators, faculty and staff to ensure equitable and effective access to electronic and information technology used within their purview. All employees, including students and graduate assistants, shall comply with this policy.
 7. North Dakota State University strives to ensure that electronic and information technology (EIT) products developed at, purchased by, or used at the university are accessible to all faculty, students, and staff, including those with disabilities. To reach this goal, those responsible for making decisions about which products to procure must consider accessibility as one of the criteria for acquisition. This is critical for enterprise-level systems and other technologies that affect a large number of students, faculty, and/or staff. See NDSU policy 400 for additional information.
 8. All new digital content and services published and available via university web sites, both internally and externally, shall conform to federally required accessibility standards. If that is not technically possible a petition may be made for an exemption. Such requests will be assessed to determine technical viability by the Vice President for Information Technology, business need by the Vice President for Finance and Administration, and impact on persons with disabilities by NDSU's ADA coordinator.
 9. For all content and systems created before the adoption of this policy and whose content and use is not fully accessible, each department shall submit an accessibility plan to NDSU's ADA coordinator by July 15, 2021 on how accessibility issues will be addressed.
 - a. The plan will be reviewed and approved by the ADA coordinator and the Office of the Vice President for Information Technology for compliance with policy and law as well as feasibility of implementation.
 - b. Tools and information regarding the accessibility plan can be found at <https://www.ndsu.edu/accessibility/>.
 10. More information on the complaint process for alleged violations can be found at <https://www.ndsu.edu/accessibility/>.
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HISTORY:

New November 30, 2021