

8.2.1 Web Accessibility

Last Revised: New

Policy: Piedmont Community College (PCC) recognizes that disability reflects diverse characteristics and experiences and is an aspect of diversity integral to society. To that end, the College collaborates with students, instructors, staff, and community members to create diverse learning environments that are accessible, usable, equitable, inclusive and sustainable.

Purpose: The College is committed to ensuring equal access to information, programs, and activities through its technologies, web pages, services and resources for all its constituencies. This policy establishes standards for the accessibility of web-based information and services considered necessary to meet this goal and ensure compliance with applicable local, state and federal regulations and laws.

This policy applies to all College web pages used to conduct core College business or academic activities. Individual web pages published by students, employees or non-college organizations that are hosted by the College and do not conduct College related business are encouraged to adopt the College's policy and standards, but fall outside the jurisdiction of this policy.

Approval Authority/Monitoring Authority: Piedmont Community College's Board of Trustees has approval authority for this policy. The President and the Director, Public Information and Marketing have monitoring authority for this policy.

Procedure:

Pages Created after April 2013

All web pages published or hosted by the College after April 2013 must be in compliance with the World Wide Web Consortium's standard: Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) Version 2.0, AA conformance level (<http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/>).

Legacy Pages (Content created prior to April 2013)

Web pages published for two years or longer are considered Legacy Pages. Each College department, program, or unit must establish priorities and timetables for updating legacy pages. Priority must be given to creating accessible web pages for core institutional information such as course work, registration, advising, admission, catalogs, and student, faculty, staff services information.

Statement of Accessibility on all Web Pages

Each College web site, including Legacy Pages, must contain a statement, or a link to a statement, referring to the College's commitment to web accessibility. In addition, each page must have a link allowing users to contact the designated responsible position or positions within a department. PCC uses the following statement:

“Piedmont Community College is committed to making its websites accessible to all users, and welcomes comments or suggestions on access improvements. Please send comments or suggestions on accessibility to the website administrator.”

Specific Requests for Access to Legacy or Archived Pages

Upon a specific request for access by an individual with a disability:

Legacy pages must be updated to be in compliance with the W3C WCAG, version 2.0 standard, AA conformance level, or the content must otherwise be made available in an *equally effective accessible format* to any individual requesting access in a timely manner. The unit responsible for the creation and maintenance of the information on the web page is responsible for making it accessible.

“Equally effective” means that the alternative format communicates the same information in as timely a fashion as does the original web page. For interactive applications or service pages, “equally effective” means that the end result (e.g., registration) is accomplished in a comparable time and with comparable effort on the part of the requester.

Websites and pages in archive status (e.g. no longer in use but subject to records retention plans) containing core administrative or academic information, official records, and similar information must be made available in an equally effective accessible format to any individual eligible for and needing access to such web content, by revision or otherwise. The unit responsible for the creation and maintenance of the information on the web page is responsible for making it accessible.

Undue Burden and Non-availability

The following circumstances may qualify as exemptions from this policy:

Where compliance is not technically possible or may require extraordinary measures due to the nature of the information and the intent of the web page, a request for exception must be made to the Director, Public Information (see Exhibit 8.2.1-1). Departments seeking an exception to this policy must submit a written request detailing why compliance is not feasible and how the department will make information from its web pages available to individuals with a disability in an equally effective manner. Lack of sufficient funding for any particular unit or department of the College would not be considered for an exemption.

Legal Citation: Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. '794 d), as amended by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (P.L. 105 - 220), August 7, 1998

History: Effective April 2015

