



OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

University Policy

Policy #3507

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACCESSIBILITY POLICY

Responsible Oversight Executive: Vice President for Administration and Finance
Date of Current Revision or Creation: April 9, 2009

A. PURPOSE

This policy documents the industry best practices with which the University will align its IT accessibility activities.

B. AUTHORITY

The Commonwealth of Virginia Restructured Higher Education Financial and Administrative Operations Act of 2005 grants institutions additional authority over financial and administrative operations, on condition that certain commitments to the Commonwealth are met. Old Dominion University seeks to enter into a Management Agreement with the Commonwealth for full delegated responsibility for management of the institution's information technology architecture, infrastructure and ongoing operations, of which IT accessibility is a part. This delegation includes the authority to conduct these activities in accordance with industry best practices appropriately tailored for the specific circumstances of the University, in lieu of following Commonwealth-determined specifications.

Old Dominion University has delegated authority under §23-38.88, *Eligibility for Restructured Financial and Administrative Operational Authority*.

C. DEFINITIONS

The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) is an international organization that develops interoperable technologies (technologies that can communicate with each other), e.g., specifications, guidelines, software and tools, to lead the Web to its full potential. W3C is a forum of information, commerce, communication, and collective understanding. Of particular relevance are the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0 Copyright © 1999 W3C (MIT, INRIA, Keio) and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 Copyright © 2005 W3C[®] (MIT, ERCIM, Keio), All Rights Reserved. W3C liability, trademark and document use rules apply

D. SCOPE

This policy applies to all Old Dominion University faculty, staff, students, and visitors and governs all information technology resources whether owned by or operated for university business through contractual arrangements.

E. POLICY STATEMENT

Accessibility refers to the University objective that everyone within the University community, regardless of physical disability, will have the opportunity for appropriate access to information technology.

The procurement, development, and/or maintenance of information technology and user support services for persons with disabilities align with accessibility standards specified in Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and in "Web Content Accessibility Guidelines" from the World Wide Web Consortium, appropriately tailored to the specific circumstances of the University and its Medical Center.

Accessibility standards are designed to evolve and change, as newer technologies are introduced and user needs change. At the same time, the standards maintain a consistent framework for accessibility training and support services. University information technology development, maintenance, training, and support personnel who are responsible for information technology procurement, programs, and services possess an appropriate level of technical knowledge related to accessibility standards for persons with disabilities.

F. PROCEDURES

The specific departmental procedures, standards and guidelines governing information technology accessibility are posted on the Office of Computing and Communications Services Web site and links to these documents are provided in Section H. below.

G. RESPONSIBLE OFFICER

Assistant Vice President for Computing and Communications Services

H. RELATED INFORMATION

[Old Dominion University Board of Visitors Policy 1626](#)

Higher Education Restructuring Act

ISO Reference 06.01.02

U.S. Government Americans with Disability Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 [Section 504](#) standards

U.S. Government Rehabilitation Act of 1973 [Section 508](#) standards

[01.5.2 - Web Maintenance Standard.pdf](#)

[01.5.3 - Web Development Standard 2006.pdf](#)

[Accessibility Rules](#)