DoIT 03 03 - Web Accessibility

*October 9, 2009 Archived Version (Effective October 9, 2009 through April 7, 2014)*

Authority: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Americans with Disabilities Act

History: First issued: March 2003. Last revised: October 9, 2009

Related Policies:

Additional References:

**Contact Information:** Associate Vice Chancellor for Information Technology and CIO,(910.521.6883)

1. Purpose

1.1 The World Wide Web is a major source of information for the faculty, staff and students of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Because the university is engaged in Web page and Web site development, this policy establishes standards for Web page accessibility.

2. Policy

2.1 The university is committed to providing equal access to Web-based information in its programs and services in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. All official university Web pages associated with university administration, services, courses of instruction, programs and activities must conform to the Web accessibility standards and requirements listed below.

3. Definitions

3.1 Official university Web pages: any university administrative or academic Web pages that are utilized for the transmission or receipt of official university material or information.

3.2 University Web managers: anyone who develops or manages official university Web pages including but not limited to faculty, staff, students, volunteers and outside contractors.

4. Standards

4.1 Development of all official university Web pages must include reasonable efforts to conform to the accessibility standards required under the above referenced laws. (Those standards now are the Federal Access Board’s Electronic and Information Accessibility Standards: 36 CFR Part 1194.)

4.2 Development of all official university Web pages must include reasonable efforts to make the sites functional and usable for persons with disabilities.

4.3 Development of all official university Web pages should include a good faith effort to select linked sites which are accessible.

4.4An official university Web page that is not accessible under the federal standards may be given an exemption provided that it meets one or more of the criteria listed below:

4.4.1 Compliance is not reasonably attainable with current technology,

4.4.1.1 The content cannot be effectively delivered in an accessible format without fundamentally altering the nature of the content; or

4.4.1.2 The content is undergoing initial development; this exemption is limited to a six-month development period.

5. Procedures

5.1 Implementation and enforcement**:** The Associate Vice Chancellor for Information Resources or other appropriate university official or his delegate is responsible for implementing and enforcing this policy and procedure.

5.2 Accessibility criteria**:** The Associate Vice Chancellor for Information Resources will determine and designate criteria and guidelines for Web page accessibility.

5.3 Requests for exemption**:** All requests for exemption must be made to the Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs or his delegate. The Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs will grant or deny the exemption based on the criteria above. This decision is final.

5.4 Findings of inaccessibility or policy violation**:** The following standards apply to potential violators:

5.4.1 All notices of policy violations or questions about accessibility will be submitted to the Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

5.4.2 If the Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs or his delegate finds that a Web site is inaccessible and/or that it has not been exempted from this policy, he will notify the Web Information Coordinator and seek correction of the deficiency or application for an exemption.

6. Range of disciplinary sanctions

6.1 If no correction or exemption is undertaken, the Web Information Coordinator may be disciplined according to regular university policies.

6.1.1 If no correction or exemption is undertaken, the Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs or his delegate may recommend to the Chancellor that the Web Information Coordinator’s authority over the Web site be removed.

6.1.2 If no correction or exemption is undertaken, the Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs or his delegate may recommend to the Chancellor that the Web documents be removed from service.