

Tips on Creating Accessible Course Content

Visit [TILT - Accessibility](http://www.csufresno.edu/tilt/resources/accessibility.shtml) (<http://www.csufresno.edu/tilt/resources/accessibility.shtml>) site for more resources.

There are many different types of disabilities and impairments. The following tips may be helpful for people with impairments, but they are equally helpful to all learners.

Blindness/Visual Impairments

There are many types of vision impairments and each have a unique approach to dealing with them. Students with blindness or visual impairments may use screen reader software, which “reads” whatever text appears on the screen. Because graphics cannot be seen, text alternatives must be used. For the student who has limited vision, they may benefit from the use of software that allows them to enlarge their computer screen images thus viewing only portions of the web page at a time. For the student who suffers from colorblindness web pages that require the use of color for navigation will pose a challenge.

- Use alternative text on all graphics.
- Use a reasonable font size. Minimum of 10 point (for web use %.)
- Separate columns with a wide blank space.
- Use a high contrast color scheme. Black text on white is ideal.
- Never put two colors of similar contrast next to each other.
- Clearly name hyperlinks and file names. For example, do not use "to see more information check out this “Link” or “Click Here.”

Hearing Impairments

When websites include audio, or the use of telephone conferences is required, the deaf student is denied that information. In this case it is important to use captioning and provide written transcripts.

- Include any information conveyed by sound in text format as well.

Mobility Disabilities

Students who have mobility impairments may not be able to manipulate a mouse or select small icons on the screen. In this case, an alternative keyboard and speech input devices may be used to access course materials.

- Make sure your Web document is navigable by both keyboard and keyboard equivalent.

Cognitive Disabilities

Some students have specific learning disabilities that make it difficult to read and process information. These students may benefit from the use of audio books, speech output devices, or screen enlargement systems.

- Avoid dense paragraphs of text. Use lots of white space.
- Use bulleted lists to simplify paragraphs.
- Use short and simple sentences when possible.
- Avoid 'busy' screens. Space information out, so that there isn't too much in a small area.

- Avoid animated text that can make the words harder to read.

Seizure Disabilities

For the student who has a seizure disorder, the use of flickering buttons may trigger an episode.

- Avoid flashing or blinking elements in your documents.

Speech Impairments

Students with speech impairments may not be able to participate in interactive telephone conferences or in class discussions.

- Design activities where students can use email or asynchronous discussion boards.