University of Toronto Accessibility Policies

(Retrieved from: https://people.utoronto.ca/inclusion/accessibility/policies/)

Commitments and accessibility standards

U of T is committed to the principles of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. As such, we strive to make our processes as accessible as possible and provide accommodations as required for all students, faculty, and staff with disabilities.

Information & Communications Standard

This area of the AODA focuses on how information is communicated and accessed. It seeks to ensure that the information we provide and the ways in which we communicate that information are as accessible as possible to persons with disabilities. The University is expected to now comply with all sections of this standard covering feedback, accessible formats and communication supports, accessible websites and our libraries.

Accessible formats and communication supports

Upon request, accessible formats and communication supports shall be provided in a timely manner that takes into account the person's accessibility needs, at a cost no more than what is regular, and in consultation with the person making the request to determine the suitability of what is provided. This extends to emergency procedures, educational and training resources, and libraries of educational and training institutions, as well as the opportunity for an individual to provide feedback.

Website Accessibility

As of 1 January 2014, under the AODA, public sector organizations shall make new internet websites and web content on them conform with the World Wide Web Consortium Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 to Level A. This requirement will extend to Level AA on all websites by 1 January 2021.

Web accessibility requirements refer to the navigation, design, and coding considerations that help visitors using different types of web-enabled devices and visitors with disabilities use the website. The requirements of WCAG 2.0 provide criteria to assist in making websites perceivable, operable, understandable and robust for persons with various types of disabilities. These four principles are described in more detail below:

1. **Perceivable**: web-based content and interface components must be presented in ways that all users can perceive. This takes into consideration the effect of colour, size, typeface and sound.
2. **Operable**: all users must be able to simply and accurately manipulate all interface and navigation components, taking in account how they operate their computers.

3. **Understandable**: content and interfaces must be clear so that all people can understand a website. Consistency of interface elements, intuition in appearance and operation, and plain language are part of this principle.
4. **Robust**: robust websites can be reliably interpreted by a wide variety of browers, devices and assistive technologies.

CONTACT:

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Office ensures that U of T is meeting the AODA standard obligations as legislated by the Province of Ontario and makes the University accessible for all staff, faculty, librarians and students. The Office delivers online and in-person training, as well as provides outreach and resources among other support services.

If you would like consultation regarding the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act standard obligations or if you would like to provide feedback regarding services provided by the University of Toronto relating to accessibility, we would like to hear from you.

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