

ADA Law: Unit Information

Overview

The definition of "accessible" used by the Office of Civil Rights and the U.S. Department of Education as it reviews non-compliance issues is as follows:

"Accessible" means a person with a disability is afforded the opportunity to acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same services as a person without a disability in an equally effective and equally integrated manner, with substantially equivalent ease of use. The person with a disability must be able to obtain the information as fully, equally, and independently as a person without a disability.

-- <https://er.educause.edu/articles/2017/1/ada-compliance-for-online-course-design>

This specific text does not exist in this form as part of the written ADA law but is a fair working definition of the law.

This unit will explore, in detail, Federal and Texas State law as it relates the Higher Education and its application to digital resources that may exist on websites and within course content. While the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 was established after the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, it established some important definitions that help to clarify the earlier Act.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in any program or activity that receives federal financial assistance. Section 508 spells out implementation as relates to electronic and Information technology standards addressing accessibility and enforcement. It also refers us to the Access Board standards which reference WCAG 2.0 guidelines.

Objectives

At the end of this unit you should be able to:

- Define a public entity.
- Define a qualified individual with a disability.
- Define what constitutes a disability.
- List or identify a variety of auxiliary aids and services.
- Describe the different functions of Section 504 and 508.

- Describe who is responsible for setting the standards under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- Describe the accessibility standard dictated for electronic content.

Assignments

1. Read over the three files in the Americans with Disabilities Act sub-topic.
 - a. Pay particular attention to the definition of a disability.
2. Read over the three files in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Access Board Standards sub-topic.
 - a. Pay particular attention to the highlighted sections in these files.
3. Visit both links in the Texas Administrative Code sub-topic
 - a. Review the information in the Section 206.70 Accessibility
 - b. Review all the information in Section 213, while this does not specifically address digital resource compliance, it does have bearing on support for ADA issues.
4. Complete the assessment quiz at the end of this unit.