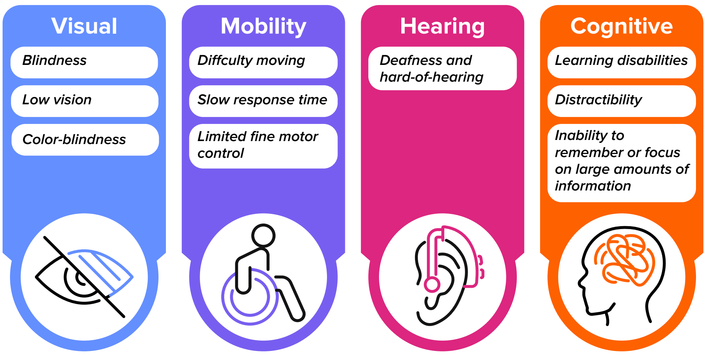
ACCESSIBILITY AWARENESS

Imagine being in a class where accessing vital information feels impossible: slides are blurry or not properly formatted for assistive technology, the instructor is hard to hear, or important images and graphs lack descriptions for blind and low vision students. This is the reality many students with disabilities face; accessibility issues persist because many courses are built without considering all learners' needs. Prioritizing accessibility from the start ensures no student is left behind, fostering a truly inclusive educational environment for everyone.

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) incorporated the WCAG 2.1, Level AA into **Title II of the Americans with Disability Act.** Essentially the rule states public service entities must provide equal access to all their services, programs, and activities, including services provided via the web and mobile applications. This means that in-person and online digital course content should be accessible. The deadline for UNT to meet the additional law for web and mobile apps accessibility is **April 24th of 2026.** A good way to start making content accessible is understanding some common disabilities.

Understanding Disabilities



Recognizing and Addressing Accessibility Barriers

After gaining an understanding of various types of disabilities, the next step is to pinpoint any accessibility barriers within your current course content. Begin evaluating your materials by asking yourself thoughtful questions like:

Accessibility Barriers	Solutions
Does my audio content include transcriptions?	*Learn how to create audio transcriptions.*
Are my videos captioned?	*Correct automatic video captions in YouTube & Zoom for accuracy.*
Do all the images used in my course have appropriate text descriptions?	*Learn how to create alt text for images in Canvas and Microsoft Office applications.*
Can my applications be used with only the keyboard?	*Learn how to ensure proper keyboard navigation.*
Is the text in my course pages and documents easily readable to people with low vision?	*Learn the best practices for text and link style and formatting.*
Do all the design elements, including text, have enough color contrast?	*Learn how to test and correct color contrast.*
Do all my pages include headings?	*Learn how to create a proper heading structure in your pages and documents.*
Are bulleted and numbered lists, as well as tables structured for accessibility?	*Learn how to format lists and tables for maximal accessibility.*
Do all graphs and charts use shape and texture in addition to color?	*Learn how to use shapes and texture in charts and graphs for people with color blindness.*
Did I do a preliminary check of all my Word Documents, PDFs and PPTXs for accessibility?	*Learn more about using the native accessibility checkers in Microsoft and Adobe.*

Helpful Accessibility Tools

Click on the logos to start creating accessible content!

WAVE Google Extension

Analyzes web pages for accessibility issues, highlighting errors, and providing suggestions to improve usability.

SensusAccess Document Remediation

An automated service that converts documents into accessible formats such as audio, Braille, e-books, and tagged PDFs. It helps students and educators transform non-accessible files (like scanned PDFs) to support diverse learning needs and assistive technologies. UNT provides free access to SensusAccess for all faculty, staff, and students.

Equatio App and Google Extension

Easily create and insert math equations using speech, handwriting, or text. UNT offers free access to Equatio for all faculty, staff, and students. The Google extension is also available at no cost.

Mathpix

A powerful tool that converts handwritten or printed math into editable LaTeX, text, or accessible formats. It's also great for turning PDFs into clean, editable HTML pages, making it ideal for creating accessible and digital-friendly content.

Created by the Accessibility Team at UNT | DIVISION OF DIGITAL STRATEGY & INNOVATION